

Preparatory Taba talks begin

GENEVA (AP) — Israeli and Egyptian delegations began preparations on Monday for the official inauguration Wednesday of an international arbitration panel designed to settle the border dispute between Israel and Egypt over the Red Sea enclave of Taba. The delegations were headed by Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, and Ambassador Nabil Al Arabi, head of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's legal affairs department. They met at an undisclosed site, officials of the two countries' missions said. The preparatory meetings were designed to deal with organisational questions, said an Israeli spokesman. The two delegations also were to exchange the formal documents after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement referring the dispute to international arbitration was ratified by the parliaments of both countries early this month, he said. Taba, a one-square-kilometre beach, has been under Israeli control since the 1967 war but is claimed by Egypt. The five-member panel of arbitration includes jurists from France, Sweden, and Switzerland as well as one arbitrator each from Israel and Egypt.

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Union condemns Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Professional Associations Union on Monday condemned Israel for its oppressive measures against the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and voiced full support for the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation. In a statement issued here, the union said it was "noting with concern the Israeli practices against the Arab citizens in the West Bank and Gaza" and denounced the killing of Palestinians by the Israelis. The statement said the oppressive Israeli measures coincided with "conspiracies and plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinians and their just cause, regardless where these plans were carried out, whether in the occupied territories or in Lebanon." Such "plots and plans are aimed at evicting the Palestinians from their homeland and obliterating the Palestinian identity," the union statement said. It called on Arab and Muslim nations to "denounce by all means these ugly terrorist practices against the Palestinians and stand firmly by the Palestinian people in their struggle against the Israeli authorities."

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Rifai meets new chamber board

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Monday received the chairman of Amman Chamber of Commerce, Hamdi Al Tabba, and the newly-elected members of the chamber's board of directors. Mr. Rifai reviewed with chamber board the economic situation in Jordan and efforts made to revive the national economy. Mr. Rifai also reviewed the government's measures to develop the national economy through the involvement of public and private sectors.

Haj Hassan returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned home Monday after attending a meeting of the Arab Social Ministers Council in Tunis on Dec. 3. In an arrival statement, Mr. Haj Hassan said that the council has elected Jordan for the first time as chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Social Ministers Council.

Former and current Australian premiers to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Australian Premier Gough Whitlam will arrive in Amman on Dec. 10 to take part in a meeting of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke is expected to arrive here on Jan. 23 for talks with Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Middle East affairs and means for supporting efforts for holding an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Talks between the two sides are also expected to cover trade between Australia and Jordan.

Ministry prepares for Kuwait conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has begun preparations for holding a Jordanian investment conference in Kuwait during the next two months after obtaining Kuwait's agreement on holding the event, Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said Monday. The sources said that the event was aimed at enlightening Kuwaiti investors on investment opportunities in Jordan. The ministry has called on the concerned sectors in the fields of industry, tourism, agriculture and transport to prepare a description of projects to be promoted and their feasibility and costs in preparation for presenting them to Kuwaitis wishing to invest in such projects.

S. Arabia slams press reports

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia on Monday described press reports that it played a part in the secret U.S. arms deal with Iran as an attempt to slander the kingdom. An Information Ministry official said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency that reports of Saudi involvement continued despite two denials by the kingdom.

Israelis shoot dead Arab child in Balata

6 Palestinians shot and wounded as anti-occupation protests hit new heights

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian child and wounded at least six other Arabs on Sunday, the fifth straight day of violent Israeli action in the occupied territories where Palestinians are staging the fiercest wave of anti-Israeli protests in several years.

Sunday's shooting raised to four the number of Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank in the past five days. The boy was hit in the head when troops fired on Palestinian protesters at Balata refugee camp after they stoned an Israeli vehicle taking Israeli police women home from nearby Nablus, sources quoted by news agencies said. Four Palestinians were shot in the same incident and two other Palestinians were injured by Israeli troops during stone-throwing incidents in the villages of Sanji and Abu Dis, both near Jerusalem, the Israeli army said.

Israeli troops immediately placed a curfew on Balata, a flashpoint of violence since a 14-year-old Arab boy was shot dead there on Friday.

Hundreds of Palestinians have taken to the streets, stoning cars, burning tyres and blocking roads in anger over the killing of two Palestinian students by occupation troops during an anti-Israeli protest on Thursday.

An Israeli woman was injured on Monday when her car windshield was shattered by stone-throwing Arabs near the town of Al Bireh. She was the 12th

Israeli to be injured in violence which has also wounded 17 Palestinians.

Shopkeepers in East Jerusalem closed their shops for a third consecutive day in a commercial strike to protest against the troop actions.

Israeli authorities clamped a morning curfew on Al Bireh and nearby Ramallah and extended the closure until Jan. 1 of the part of Birzeit University where the student unrest began.

Birzeit philosophy Professor Hassan Bishara called the closure part of an Israeli effort to weaken nationalist strongholds. "We will fight for the university to reopen," he told Israel Radio.

It was the first time since March 1985 that Birzeit, the West Bank's second largest and most prestigious institution, has been shut as punishment for anti-Israeli violence.

In Ramallah, eight kilometres north of Jerusalem, troops fired tear gas into a crowd of

(Continued on page 3)

22 killed and 66 injured in 2 days of shelling on Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday that 22 people had been killed and 66 wounded in two days of Iranian shelling of the southern port city of Basra.

Iraq began what it said would be a 48-hour bombardment of Iraqi cities on Saturday evening, in "retribution" for Iraqi air raids.

A Baghdad military spokesman said Iraqi jets attacked two Iranian power plants and two military camps on Monday.

He said a power station at Arak, 240 kilometres southwest of Tehran, was destroyed at 1045 GMT, while a power transmission station at Kangavar to the south was damaged less than three hours later.

Two military camps were attacked for the second successive day, inflicting further damage and destroying ammunition depots and military hardware, the spokesman said, adding that all the planes returned to base.

Basra, Iraq's second city with a population of about one million people, on Monday suffered its third successive day of intensive Iranian long-range shelling, residents said.

A military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said 12 people were killed and 39 were wounded there on Monday. He put Sunday's death toll at 10, with 27 injured.

Iraq claimed Sunday it fired three short-range missiles into Basra. This has not been confirmed by Iraqi officials.

Earlier, Iraq said its warplanes attacked a merchant vessel off the Iranian coast at 0320 GMT, the second reported strike against shipping within 24 hours.

Lloyds shipping intelligence service in London said it understood that a Maltese steam tanker, Free Enterprise, was hit by a missile Sunday afternoon.

It said the tanker, which was loaded, was able to continue under its own power.

Monday's casualties at Basra raised to 47 the number of people, including women and children, killed in weekend Iranian attacks on Iraqi towns.

Baghdad Radio said 37 of the Iraqi victims, including seven women and eight children, fell in a missile attack on Basra.

The other 10 were killed in several villages in northern and eastern Iraq where Iranian warplanes struck Sunday, said the broadcast.

Iraq said the attacks were in retaliation for Iraq's air raids on Ahvaz, in the southern oil province of Khuzestan, on Saturday.

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Emergency meeting opens in Tunisia

TUNIS (Agencies) — An emergency Arab League meeting on the "camps war" in Lebanon opened on Monday with a call for an immediate end to fighting pitting Arab against Arab but few countries were represented at ministerial level.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi made the appeal hours after a ceasefire was shattered by fresh fighting in Lebanon.

"I implore you to divert all your strength, all the energy you possess, against the Israeli enemy," Mr. Klibi said.

The meeting, requested by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) nine days ago, was called at foreign minister level, but only four turned up, from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia and Qatar.

The rest of the 21-member league, including the PLO and Algeria, the current president of the foreign ministerial council, sent lower representation.

Mr. Taher Al Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, held consultations here on Sunday with Mr. Klibi, Mr. Saud Al Usseimi, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mr. Jamal Hobo, head of the Algerian delegation.

Later Mr. Masri met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Muharak and the Jordanian ambassador to Tunisia.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said the low-level representation was partly because of strong opposition to the meeting by Syria, which the PLO accuses of plotting with the Shi'ite Amal militia and Israel to chase Palestinians out of Lebanon.

Lebanon, which says it alone should decide about events on its territory, also opposed the session which will discuss more than two months of fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon in which over 600 people have died.

Kuwait opens trial of 5 in cafe bombings case

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's state security court on Monday opened a trial of five Arabs charged with the bombing of seaside cafes in which 10 people were killed and 80 wounded July 11, 1985.

The defendants, three of whom will be tried in absentia, hold Jordanian passports. Press reports have said the five are members of the Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal faction.

The two men in jail, Mustafa Mahmoud Bayari, 23, and Rafe Mohammad Bayari, 23, appeared at the session. They were charged with premeditated murder, arson and possession of arms, explosives and ammunition.

The charges read by the prosecution at the public hearing also included "deliberate training outside the country on the use of arms and explosive devices with prior knowledge that the instructors sought to utilise them in the achievement of illegitimate objectives."

Abu Nidal has bases in Libya, Syria and in Syrian-controlled Lebanon. Kuwaiti press reports said the men were trained in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Bayari pleaded guilty to all counts. Jumaa denied involvement in any.

The three defendants at large were identified as Akram Qader Adas, 21, Ibrahim Saad Ibrahim, 23, and Samih Mustafa Bayari, 24.

Mustafa Mahmoud Bayari was asked as a surveyor at an undisclosed government department. Jumaa also was a government employee, but details of his job were withheld.

Names of the accused were kept secret until the court proceedings began. They revealed a link with the April 1985 attack on Ahmad Jarrallah, editor-in-chief of Al Seyassah newspaper.

Moscow warns U.S. against tipping balance

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Monday its decision to continue observing the SALT-II strategic arms treaty for the time being did not mean it would permit a shift in the nuclear balance in favour of the United States.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and a senior military official, General Nikolai Chervov, said the U.S. abandonment of SALT-II left the impression that the White House wanted to commit future administrations to an arms race.

In January there was a full-scale meeting with Mr. Reagan on the approach to the Iranians but no explicit decision was taken, Mr. Bessmertnykh said.

King visits geographic centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, paid a visit on Monday to the Jordan National Geographic Centre. The King was received upon arrival by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and the centre's director, Ra'fat Al Majali.

The King was briefed on the activities of the centre and the services it offers.

The King also watched an exhibition of maps and air photos produced by the centre and toured the centre's various sections.

At the end of the visit, the King issued a directive that the name of the centre be amended to the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre.



His Majesty King Hussein visits the Jordan National Geographic Centre (now the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre) on Monday (Petra photo).

Hopes for Amal-PLO truce fade amid escalated battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters and Lebanese Amal forces fought bitter house-to-house battles at a hilltop village in South Lebanon on Monday, leaving hopes for reviving an Iranian-brokered ceasefire in tatters.

The flare-up dimmed hopes that Iranian mediation would succeed in ending nine weeks of fighting around five Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and the south.

Black smoke billowed from Maghdousheh, overlooking the sprawling Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hiweh, as close-quarter combat raged near the shell-pocked village church.

Police said two people were killed and eight wounded in sporadic clashes with rocket-propelled grenades and machinegun fire between militants of the Shi'ite Amal movement and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters at Beirut's Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camps.

Six other people were wounded in sniper fire exchanges around Maghdousheh, a strategic hilltop town southeast of the port city of Sidon, South Lebanon's provincial capital.

The casualties raised the known toll in 15 days of bloodletting to 433 killed and 950 wounded.

PLO spokesman said the fighters repulsed an overnight attempt by Amal irregulars to recapture Maghdousheh's western sector, which the PLO fighters overran two weeks ago.

That area of Maghdousheh overlooks the refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hiweh as well as Mieh Mieh. It commands the coastal highway linking Sidon with the predominantly Shi'ite south.

The Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) called for a ceasefire for 8 p.m. Sunday at the urging of Syrian, Iranian and Libyan mediators.

But Amal's leader, Lebanese Justice Minister Nabil Berri, rejected the plan because it also called on both Amal and the Palestinians to withdraw from Maghdousheh and turn over their positions to groups which remained neutral in the

PLO-Amal war. Meanwhile, Reuters reported from Damascus that Palestinians and the Amal militia had reached a new ceasefire agreement on Monday.

The Reuters dispatch, quoting Palestinian sources, said the agreement was reached at a meeting between Libyan second-in-command Major Abdul Salam Jalloud and representatives of eight Damascus-based PLO groups.

They said Mr. Berri had also approved the agreement, which revises amendments introduced on Sunday to the earlier ceasefire agreement sponsored by Iran.

The main revision concerned who would replace Palestinian fighters following their withdrawal from Maghdousheh.

The new version said pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God) forces would be deployed in positions evacuated by Palestinian fighters.

Under the revised agreement, Palestinian withdrawal from Maghdousheh would start at 0400 GMT on Monday.

Chirac scraps university reform bill that sparked violent student protests

PARIS (Agencies) — Premier Jacques Chirac announced on Monday the withdrawal of a university reform bill that had sent hundreds of thousands of students into the streets in protests that sometimes turned violent.

The announcement, made to journalists and on national television from the premier's office after a meeting with his principal cabinet ministers, came as millions of French marked a day of mourning, including some brief work stoppages, for a 22-year-old student killed early Saturday.

Mr. Chirac said he "decided to withdraw the present draft law and asked the minister of education to engage immediately in a wide consultation."

"No adaptation (of universities), as necessary as it may be, can be carried through without a large adhesion of all of the interested parties, notably students and teachers," he said.

"It can only be done in calm. It clearly appears that that is not the case today. Demonstrations in process, with all of the risks of violence and the dangers that they entail for all, are the proof."

Friday night, Education Minister Rene Monory went on nationwide television to announce that the three most controversial parts of the measure would be withdrawn for further study and consultations, but that parliamentary debate would go ahead as planned on the rest of it.

The students, however, continued to push for killing the entire plan and conducted another demonstration on Saturday.

The death of Malik Ousseine shortly after midnight, after what witnesses said was a severe beating by three policemen, dramatically changed the mood of the protest.

Student leaders were due to meet later Monday to discuss whether to drop plans for a national day of strikes and demonstrations on Wednesday.

The general confederation of Labour, France's largest union, supported the students, and many other organisations indicated they would take part.

The earlier high-spirited, convivial mood of the protest turned dark, more political and aimed directly at Mr. Chirac's government. Opposition politicians, who also objected to the bill, became even more vociferous.

The students also had called for a day of mourning Monday.

Reappointment of the Commercial and Industrial Co. Ltd. as Ford dealers in Jordan

AMMAN — The Commercial and Industrial Co. Ltd. has been reappointed as a Ford dealer in Jordan for the following source factory products:

- Ford Motor Company — U.S.A. — Ford Division Car and Truck Lincoln/Mercury Division Car
- Ford Motor Company Ltd. — U.K. — Car and Truck
- Ford Werke A.G. — Car and Truck
- Ford Espana S.A. — Car and Van
- Ford Brazil — Car and Truck

The Commercial and Industrial Co. Ltd. has been a Ford dealer in Jordan for over 35 years.

Mr. Richard W. Alvarez from Ford of Europe arrived in Amman on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1986, specially for this occasion.

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Libya gets submarine lifting gear from Britain

Revelation sparks political storm in U.K.

LONDON (AP) — A British company said Sunday it has supplied submarine lifting gear to Libya, but denied the sale violated a British law banning the shipment of military goods to the Arab state.

The revelation sparked a political storm from opposition leaders in Britain, who said the issue would be Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's equivalent of the U.S.-Iran arms scandal.

The Sunday Mail, a Scottish paper, reported Sunday that Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) sold components for the 1,100-ton lifting gear called Synchrolift to Libya via Italy.

Northern Engineering denied Sunday that it had violated a government ban on the sale of military equipment to Libya.

A company spokesman, speaking on condition he was not named, said NEI applied to the Department of Trade for an export licence for the machinery but was told none was needed because the components were considered non-military and initially being shipped to Italy.

But members of parliament quickly noted that the Synchrolift can hoist Libya's six Soviet-built submarines to dry land for repair or refit and could be used for lifting surface warships.

"We have Mrs. Thatcher's government quite rightly condemning terrorism, but on the other hand allowing the export of equipment obviously of military and strategic importance to Col. (Muammar) Qadhafi," said Dennis Davies, a defence spokesman for the opposition Labour Party.

"In view of the way the

Americans have been behaving in Iran and in view of Mrs. Thatcher's complete support for what (U.S.) President (Ronald) Reagan did there, we would like to know if the British government has been setting up similar deals," he said.

Fellow Labourite George Foulkes, a foreign affairs spokesman, said: "It looks suspiciously like Mrs. Thatcher's version of Reagan's Iran fiasco."

John Cartwright, the centrist Social Democratic Party's defence spokesman, said: "This does need a proper inquiry because in the wake of the Iran arms deal there is bound to be suspicion."

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in April 1984 after a policeman was fatally shot during a Libyan dissident demonstration. Britain charged she was gunned down by a Libyan shooting from inside the Libyan embassy at St. James's Square.

The Synchrolift was patented by Pearlson Engineering, a U.S.-based subsidiary of NEI which was recently renamed NEI Synchrolift Inc.

An NEI spokesman said the Americans had not been involved in the design of the Synchrolift bound for Libya to avoid any commercial conflict with the U.S. government's policy of not selling weapons to Libya.

The United States broke diplomatic relations with Libya in 1980 after the sinking of the U.S.

embassy in Tripoli and reports of Libyan "hit squads" being sent to America.

The order for the components was placed with NEI by the Italian company, Impreglio, which is building a harbour at the Libyan military port of Al Khums, 96 kilometres east of Tripoli.

NEI said the components were made in Glasgow, Scotland, at the Sir William Arrol Yard, one of its subsidiaries, and part of the order was shipped last month on the Yugoslav freighter Pecine.

Francesco Pennachioni, Impreglio's honorary chairman, was quoted by the Sunday Mail as saying his company was installing the lifting equipment in Libya.

Italy's long history of cultural and commercial ties with Libya, its former colony, has remained unbroken throughout recent international tensions with the Arab State.

"It is a large project for the use of the Libyan army although it will also be of use to the navy," Mr. Pennachioni was quoted as saying.

But one opposition figure, Labour lawmaker Ron Brown, applauded the deal, saying "it is a good thing and will help normalise relations with Libya."

Mr. Brown suggested the sale helped secure the release of a British jelled there — and might win the release of another British still imprisoned in Tripoli.

The Foreign Office denied "categorically" that shipment of the components was connected with the recent release of a Scottish engineer, Michael King, who had been jailed by the Libyans for alleged drug smuggling.

Kaplan says.

"I'm happy here because Israel is my country. But my problem is that I'm always thinking about my father and cousins in Ethiopia," said Destab Abate, 38.

Attrition from the African famine and the trek to the arid site in Sudan took their toll: One in four Ethiopian families in Israel have only one parent in the household.

The Immigration Ministry says that of an estimated 6,000 Falashas of working age, only 2,000 are employed. Many say they do not earn nearly enough to support their families.

Sivabath, 43, works in a Jerusalem factory and earns 420 Israeli shekels (\$280) a month. "It's not nearly enough money. I have six children... well, five here... one is still in Ethiopia."

Kaplan, chairman of a research committee on Falasha integration for the ministry, said: "Employment is a real problem. I have yet to hear of anyone with a workable scenario of how Ethiopians will become self-sufficient."

Israel has settled the Ethiopians in some 45 towns including a few communities in the occupied West Bank.

electric light and riding in an elevator.

Ethiopian immigrants say the major obstacle to their integration is the insistence by Israel's chief rabbis they undergo ritual immersion to ensure their Jewishness.

The rabbis say they fear the Falashas' ancestors may have intermarried with non-Jews in Ethiopia during the 1,000 years the community was cut off from other Jews.

Most of the Falashas refuse to submit to the rabbis' demands, saying doubts about their Jewish heritage are demeaning.

Many Ethiopian couples have chosen to live together rather than take part in conversion rites rabbis say they must undergo before marriage.

"We follow the Torah and many Jews here do not, but the rabbis say we have to convert. They look at our colour, that is the only reason," says Makonen Sivabath, who arrived in "Operation Moses."

Nearly all Falashas left family behind and there seems little chance they will be reunited.

Many of the immigrants suffer from depression and about a dozen have committed suicide.

Kirkpatrick: Washington in disarray over Iran arms deal

TEL AVIV (R) — President Reagan's former ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, said Monday her administration was in disarray over the Iran arms scandal and urged his top aides to "rally round or get out."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, in Israel to attend a forum on local government, told a news conference: "It's a bit more serious than bickering. I think one would have to say there's been obviously some disarray and that the president is the principal victim of it."

She mentioned Secretary of State George Shultz and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan as being particularly to blame.

There were solid geopolitical and humanitarian reasons for Mr. Reagan's decision to sell a small quantity of arms to Iran, she said, and senior administration officials should have defended the president instead of voicing public dissent.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, an outspoken hawk who served at the U.N. during Mr. Reagan's first four-year term, said: "As in war, you do not put (the president) in the front line to take all the flak."

"I have been shocked by the levels of stated disagreement with the president. I believe a senior cabinet officer's only duty is either to rally round or get out."

The former ambassador appeared to support the use of proceeds from the Iran arms sales to finance Nicaraguan contra rebels while Congress had barred U.S. aid to the insurgents, calling the scheme "rather imaginative."

She said comparisons between the Iran arms affair and the Watergate scandal which brought down President Richard Nixon in 1974 were mistaken but compared the current crisis with former President Lyndon Johnson's problems with Congress towards the end of his administration in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War.

Responding to suggestions that she might run for vice-president with the Republican Party in 1988, Mr. Kirkpatrick said: "I am not a candidate for the presidency or any other office in 1988 and I do not intend to become one."

Speaking at Tel Aviv University Sunday night, she encouraged Israel to help the contra, saying Nicaragua's Sandinista rulers were enemies of Israel whose friendship with the Palestine Liberation Organisation was "sealed in Israeli blood."

"Frankly, I see no reason that Israel should not help the contra (rebels) for her own purposes. Now, the Sandinistas on the other hand are sworn public enemies of the state of Israel," she said.

The U.S. Congress has barred aid to the contra, and Israel is concerned that reports of its support for the rebels will damage relations with Washington.

Iraq displays air superiority in Gulf war

By John Owen-Davies
Rouss

BAHRAIN — The Gulf war has escalated into a new and dangerous phase, with Iraq using air superiority to hurt Iran and regain some military advantage, diplomats in the Middle East say.

Iran-for-at strikes by Iran have heightened tension in the region and increased fears among Iraq's Gulf Arab allies that they could be dragged into the six-year-long conflict.

Long range Iraqi air strikes have hit vital Iranian oil installations in the past month, restricting exports which fund Tehran's war machine.

Tehran retaliated by firing ground-to-ground missiles into the Iraqi capital, with heavy loss of civilian lives, and by stepping up attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf.

An oil rig of the United Arab Emirates was also attacked — but each side blamed the other for it.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Last month alone, 10 vessels were hit in the Gulf — four in an Iraqi raid on Iran's Larak oil terminal. Altogether some 80 ships, mostly tankers, have been hit by both sides this year, compared with 46 in the whole of 1985.

Civilian casualties are also mounting in a war that is estimated to have cost more than half a million lives.

Three Iranian missiles smashed into Baghdad in 12 days last month, Iraqi authorities reporting a toll of 53 dead in the worst of them.

Iran too has claimed heavy civilian deaths from Iraqi attacks, the media estimating at least 370 killed in last month.

In addition, Iran claimed more than 100 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed Saturday in an attack on the western provincial capital of Ahwaz.

Tehran responded by ordering attacks on targets in Iraq for 48 hours. But so far both sides have refrained from a full-scale "war of the cities" like the one in 1984-85.

Diplomats say Iraqi air power has become a major factor in the war, especially having shown ability to hit Iranian targets as far away as the Straits of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

The Iraqis have some 500 combat aircraft including modern French-built Mirages, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). Iran, on the other hand, has barely 80 serviceable planes, mostly supplied by the United States before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Iraq says it has concentrated recent air strikes on targets such as oil facilities and troop buildups.

Diplomats suggest this disruption of fuel and supply lines was partially behind Iran's decision to delay the threatened offensive, which had been expected before the end of September.

Iran, with three times the population of Iraq, is believed to have mobilised 500,000 men on the southern front.

Diplomats now think the Iranian offensive could come in February and would be aimed at isolating Iraq's second city, Basra.

It was in February this year that the Iraqis launched a surprise push across the Shatt Al Arab waterway to capture a strategic foothold on the Fao peninsula.

The full ground fighting since the Fao thrust gave Iraq time to reinforce its southern defences, diplomats said.

Israeli hoteliers threaten to shut down

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli hoteliers, troubled by a sharp drop in tourism, are considering shutting down hotels in the Holy Land during the Christmas holiday, the chairman of the Israeli Hotels Association said Monday.

"We are at the brink of total collapse because of international terrorism and Israeli government policy," Morris Chasid told a news conference.

His deputy, Eli Papushado, said tourism from the United States dropped by 42 per cent from January to October this year compared with the same period last year, while the tourism from European countries dropped by six per cent.

During that period in 1986, 163,500 Americans visited Israel and the occupied territories, he said.

The Tourism Ministry said tourism to Israel had reached its lowest level in five years.

Yair Yudis, a third hotel manager at the news conference, said 64 of Israel's 300 hotels were facing severe financial trouble because of the declining number of visitors.

"We are in a bad region. Around us, we have Lebanon, Iraq, Iraq and Syria, which is now blamed all over the world for attacks," Mr. Papushado said.

"Even Jewish tourists, once eager to visit Israel, are now reluctant to come because Israel is in the headlines all the time, portrayed as a deeply troubled country," he said.

Mr. Papushado said the Israeli government's policy of freezing the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar to one dollar for 1.5 shekels reduced the profits of the hotel owners while their expenses are rising.

'Defection of Soviet envoy in 1982 set stage for U.S.-Iran dealings'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ripple effect from the 1982 defection of a Soviet diplomat in Tehran set the United States on the path today's headlines, a former National Security Council staff member says.

When Vladimir Kuzichkin, a Soviet vice consul in Tehran, arrived in London that October, a newspaper said: "One of Russia's top spymasters has fled from the KGB to England."

Gary Sick, who manned the Iran desk at the National Security Council in Washington during the Iranian revolution and the U.S. hostage crisis, says Kuzichkin, a former KGB major, was full of information and was debriefed by the CIA.

Eventually, the information was passed back to Iran, which was so upset by Soviet activities in Iran, Kuzichkin described that it dissolved Tudeh, the country's Communist Party, and expelled 18 Soviets.

"This was the first major contact since the revolution and proved there were areas of mutual interest," Mr. Sick told journalists and scholars last week at the American Enterprise Institute.

"It proved that intelligence contacts obviously were beneficial to both sides."

"The United States had won the overthrow of the Tudeh Party, but worried that the Soviets could come back," said Mr. Sick, author of *All Fall Down*, a book on Iran.

A CIA memo in May of 1985 warned the administration that the United States was falling behind the Soviets in Iran. Mr. Sick said. At the same time Iran received 60 Soviet missiles, which it used in its war against Iraq, he said.

Mr. Sick, who said his information comes only from public sources, then sketched this diplomatic history:

When Iran came under heavy Iraqi air strikes in early 1985, the United States felt the stage was set for a new open-door policy. By

then, Marine Lt.-Col. Oliver North, then a National Security Council aide, had a gun-running operation in place in Central America that could be deployed elsewhere, Mr. Sick said.

"Creative financing was in place. Transportation to use it was there," he said.

He said Saudi Arabian Prince Saud's visit to Iran in May 1985 was an important "psychological turning point" because it seemed to indicate Iran was ready to begin dealing with the rest of the world.

Israel had sent arms to Iran much earlier but was rebuffed by the Reagan administration. However, in July 1985, the National Security Council debated how the United States could establish relations in Iran, a strategically situated country, Mr. Sick said.

He said Israel told the United States that arms deals could help pave the way. "Israel said it was in a position to manage it," he said.

Robert MacFarlane, then national security adviser, took that advice to Mr. Reagan, who said he was interested in making contact, but opposed direct arms sales, Mr. Sick said.

Israel sent a shipment by air in 1985 and a second shipment, which included U.S. arms. "That flight went in mid-September and that day the Rev. Benjamin Weir was released," Mr. Sick said. "It established that arms delivery was one way" to get hostages free.

In November of last year, a third shipment was sent to Iran and included old, outdated material, he said. Iran turned that down and it was returned to Israel.

On Dec. 4, Mr. MacFarlane retired. Two days later, a meeting in the White House discussed whether there should be arms sales. On Dec. 7, Mr. MacFarlane flew to the Middle East.

"At the same time, Khomeini made an interesting speech," Mr. Sick said. "He said, 'we do not want to live in a country which is isolated from the rest of the world.'"

On Jan. 7 there was another full scale review in the White House on the question of U.S. arms sales to Iran. Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger are known to have argued against that. CIA Director William Casey was for it and drafted a "finding" for the president that was signed by Mr. Reagan 10 days later. Mr. Sick said.

"At that point, Col. North and Adm. Poindexter came together with the CIA," he said. Adm. Poindexter was Mr. Reagan's national security adviser until he resigned late last month and Col. North, his subordinate, was fired.

On Feb. 2, two plane loads of arms went from the United States to Iran. The Israelis decided to send their shipments by sea.

On May 28, Mr. MacFarlane flew into Iran with a plane load of arms.

As is often the case between governments, Mr. Sick said, the arrangements had been complicated: All American hostages would be released before Mr. MacFarlane's arrival and he was to open high level discussions with Iranian leaders.

"Neither happened," Mr. Sick said.

By July 4, another plane load of arms went into Iran and soon after, the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco was released. In September, at least one more U.S. shipment went to Iran.

Mr. Sick said contrary to reports, the arms shipment dealings were not at low levels of the Iranian government.

"The president, the speaker, the chief justice of the supreme court and Khomeini's son... those people were involved at various stages of this operation," he said.

In all, Mr. Sick said, 5,500 tonnes of arms went to Iran between May and November of this year. Their total value, he estimated, was between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 — Koran
15:35 — Programme review
15:45 — Cartoons
16:10 — Children programmes
16:25 — Astronomy
17:25 — Houston Hospital
18:20 — Religious programme (Fatwa)
18:30 — Arabic series
19:25 — News programme
19:50 — Programme review
20:30 — News in Arabic
20:35 — Arabic series
21:30 — Tomorrow's programme
21:35 — Local varieties programme
22:30 — News summary in Arabic
22:35 — Close down

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 — Boite aux lettres
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — L'union des peuples
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Varieties
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Music Box
21:30 — Yes Prime Minister
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — Dempsey and Malpas

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 9560 KHz. SW
77411-19

07:30 — Light Music
07:35 — News Desk
08:00 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:05 — Morning Show Cont.
11:00 — Oriental Foods
11:15 — Your Health
11:30 — Morning Show
12:00 — News Summary
12:05 — Readings
12:30 — Pop Session
12:35 — News Summary
13:00 — Pop Session Cont.
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — Instruments
14:20 — News Summary
15:00 — Concert Hour
15:05 — News Summary
15:10 — Instruments, Old Favorites
17:00 — Science Report
17:30 — Pop Session
18:00 — News Summary
18:05 — Top Twenty
19:00 — Newsdesk
19:30 — Date with a Star
21:30 — Evening Show
21:35 — News Summary
21:45 — Evening Show Cont.

21:55 — News Summary
22:00 — Evening Show Cont.
22:05 — News Summary
22:10 — Evening Show Cont.
22:15 — News Summary
22:20 — Evening Show Cont.
22:25 — News Summary
22:30 — Evening Show Cont.

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz.

06:00 Debut Music 06:30 The Music of Weber 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choices 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Rock Solid 08:40 World News 08:45 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 My Country in Mind 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Training for Tomorrow 10:20 After School 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Sounds of the Sixties 12:00 News Summary: 12:30 The Best of 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 Waveguide 13:25 A Letter from Scotland 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 The Multitrack 14:35 Personal Story 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 Recording of the Week 16:00 Outlook 16:45 The Music of Weber 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 A Jolly Good Show 17:30 The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bessie 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 A Letter from Scotland 19:15 Mediamix 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9261, 1740, 11925 and 13210 Hz.

05:00 News 05:30 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:57 News Summary 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News & Editorial 22:15 Music USA 22:30 News 22:30 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Egyptian artist Hassan Jaber at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 15).

* West German book and photo exhibition at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Dec. 10).

* French cinema week at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Dec. 9).

CINEMA WEEK

* A play in English entitled "Oh What a Lovely War" by the Royal Theatre Club daily at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 11).

PLAY

* Activities for children at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 15).
Tonight: Theatre for Children at 5:00 p.m.

ABC NEWS

* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 644371
British Council Tel. 641520
British Council Tel. 636147-8
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 6418195
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 644251
Yarmouk Municipal Library Tel. 637111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also

movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 637440. Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Lebanon, Jabel Lubduneh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 639128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubduneh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Lubduneh, mass in Italian language, most every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.
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Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad condoles Al Khalil family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Monday called on Al Khalil family and offered his condolences on the death of Ahmad Al Khalil, a former member of the Upper House of Parliament.

Fayez receives Syrian speaker's message

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez on Monday received a verbal message from his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zubi. The message was conveyed by Syrian ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh who met with Mr. Fayez for discussions on bilateral relations.

Planning minister leaves for Rome

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan left for Rome on Monday to take part in a meeting of the governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), due to open on Tuesday. The IFAD governors will review the fund's achievements in 1986 and endorse programmes for the coming year, especially those that are to be implemented in developing nations, in addition to IFAD's general budget. Dr. Kanaan will go on to Tunis to take part in a meeting of a centre charged with conducting studies on Arab unity.

Jordan, Turkey reviews cultural relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Under Secretary Ahmad Bashairah on Monday conferred with a visiting Turkish delegation to discuss educational and cultural relations between Jordan and Turkey. Dr. Bashairah also discussed an executive programme for cultural cooperation between Jordan and Turkey for this year and the next two years, to be concluded between both parties on Tuesday. The Turkish delegation arrived here on Sunday on a five-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials and to sign a cultural cooperation protocol. They will also visit a number of educational and cultural institutions and archaeological sites.

French archaeology official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Philippe Guillemin, from the French Department of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, arrived here on Monday on a three-day working visit to Jordan. Mr. Guillemin, who is responsible for archaeological cooperation, will hold talks with Jordanian officials on Jordanian and French cooperation in the fields of archaeology and antiquities. His talks will also touch upon issues pertaining to holding the 4th international conference on the history of Jordan, due to be held at Lyon University in 1989. During his visit, the French official will visit a number of historical and archaeological sites where French archaeological teams are currently working.

Seville University president visits Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — University of Science and Technology President Kámel Al Aikuni on Monday received the president of the Spanish University of Seville and the accompanying delegation. Dr. Aikuni briefed the visiting delegation on the university and its future plans, which he said focus on the qualitative aspect of education and active participation of staff and students. Dr. Aikuni welcomed any scientific cooperation and exchange of expertise between his university and Seville University. Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan also received the Spanish guest and briefed him on the development of Yarmouk University and its philosophy.

Inspection teams to check restaurants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with Amman Municipality, will launch an intensive inspection campaign to ensure that all restaurants and their employees comply with public health and safety standards.



Leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party Mohammad Al Mirghani views the reliefs and pictures which relate the story of the Great Arab Revolt at the Martyrs' Monument in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

Sudanese leader visits Martyrs' Monument

AMMAN (Petra) — Leader of the Sudanese Unionist Democratic Party Mohammad Al Mirghani on Monday visited the Martyrs' Monument where he was received by the Armed Forces director of moral guidance.

Mr. Mirghani and the accompanying delegation toured the sections of the monument and viewed the reliefs and pictures which relate the story of the Great Arab Revolt and the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Mr. Mirghani was accompanied on his visit by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Sudanese ambassador to Jordan Majid Mustafa.

On Sunday, Mr. Mirghani met with the Sudanese community in Jordan during a reception held in his honour by the Sudanese ambassador. The ambassador welcomed the visiting Sudanese official and expressed hope that his visit would mark the start of closer cooperation and ties between Jordan and Sudan.

Muasher, Egyptian minister discuss energy cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher on Monday met with Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity Maher Abaza in the presence of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Habib Wahbeh. They discussed aspects of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in the fields of energy and electricity.

Mr. Abaza earlier visited a public service centre which offers free help and advice to the public on issues related to energy and electricity. Accompanied by Dr. Khatib, the Egyptian minister inspected equipment on display and looked into the services being offered to the Jordanian public on means of saving energy in addition to advice on insulation and solar energy systems.

SSC director opens training seminar on social security

AMMAN (Petra) — Approximately one quarter of the labour force presently in Jordan are from Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and South Korea because nearly one third of the country's working force is currently employed abroad, mainly in oil-rich Arab countries, Dr. Mahdi Al Farhan, the director general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) said here on Monday.

Addressing the opening session of a two-week training seminar attended by 12 countries from Asia and the Middle East, Dr. Farhan said that the SSC law in Jordan now covers approximately 385,000 people, 70 per cent of whom are Jordanians.

Jordan, with a population of 2.75 million has a unique central position within the Arab World and is thereby affected by various social and economic activities within the region, Dr. Farhan pointed out. He said also that nearly 55 per cent of the Jordanian population are under 15 years of age and will be expected to enter the labour market in the coming 10 years.

Referring to the application of the SSC law in the country, Dr. Farhan said that it came into effect in 1980 but that the country had military and civilian social security systems since the early 1940s which provided pensions upon retirement. Dr. Farhan said that the recent economic and social developments in the country necessitated the issuance of the SSC law which provides coverage for occupational injuries, sickness, old age and death.

The SSC, he said, will shortly include Jordanian expatriates in its coverage on a voluntary basis.

The seminar is being organised by the International Social Security Association (ISSA), in cooperation with the SSC.

The secretary general of ISSA made a speech on the occasion outlining the importance of the seminar for developing nations. He said that the Geneva-based ISSA was established to promote the development of social security in various world nations through improving techniques and administration.

Lecturers at the seminar come from the International Labour Organisation, ISSA and the SSC.

Scholars urge Arab states and funds to support Al Quds Open University

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab governments, funds and institutes of higher education on Monday were urged to support the establishment of Al Quds Open University (QOU), a project which is expected to see the light by October 1988 at an estimated cost of \$50 million.

This recommendation was issued at the conclusion of a three-day seminar on extension education and the QOU. During the seminar, Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab scholars discussed prospects of expediting the process of setting up the university and drumming up financial, technical, moral and communications support for the projected university.

A number of working papers including topics on the open university system, the role of the distance teaching in the Arab World and the scope of cooperation between distance-teaching systems and universities — were presented at the seminar which was jointly organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the QOU.

The recommendation, which was read out by the ATF Secretary General Sa'ad Iddin Ibrahim, specifically called on the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED) together with Arab, regional and international funds to contribute towards bringing the QOU project into existence as scheduled.

Participants in the seminar, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, paid special tribute to the education bureau of the Gulf states which has been concerned with setting up the QOU. Al Quds Open University would be the first such university in the Arab World. The Gulf education bureau held a similar symposium on the proposed open university in Manama, Bahrain and that symposium also came out with the same recommendation.

Citing Jordan's firm stand in support of the Palestinian people

and the Kingdom's financial allocations for the occupied territories 1986-1990 national development plan, the participants in the Amman seminar urged other Arab countries to follow and support Jordan's endeavours.

Monday's concluding session was documented and held at the Jordan studios premises, which are run by the Jordan Company for Radio, Television and Cinema Production.

The final statement concluded that distance teaching was agreed to be a pressing necessity for Arab people in general and the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and in the diaspora in particular. The need for an open university, the recommendation continued, will grow steadily by the turn of the coming century, when the population of the Arab nation is expected to exceed 300 million people. Of this number, more than half will be of school or college age and 20 million of them are expected to be enrolled in higher and post graduation education, the final statement added. The need to set up an open university has never been as pressing as now, it said.

Israel has already set up an open university, a university which Dr. Walid Kamhawi, the mastermind and architect of the projected QOU, contended had been established by one Jewish sponsor. Dr. Kamhawi, who is a cardiologist, urged Arab individuals to muster financial support for the Al Quds (Jerusalem) university.

Earlier, Dr. Ibrahim suggested that each and every Arab university and educational institute contribute as much as one per cent of its fiscal budget to help set up and operate the QOU.

Moreover, Dr. Ibrahim requested levying one per cent extra tax on Palestinians for the same purpose.

During Monday's morning session, Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib from the Riyadh-based Arab education bureau for the Gulf states presented a working paper on the scope of cooperation between distance teaching systems and universities in which he tackled the situation of universities in the Arab World; the universities' specialities and problems, their financial, human and moral resources. Dr. Khatib reviewed prospective future links and cooperation between the Arab universities and the QOU, which is planned to be based in Amman.

During Sunday's deliberations, the participants issued a statement denouncing Israel's terrorist policy in the occupied Arab territories and the occupation authorities' mass arrests of Arab inhabitants, eviction and the recent wave of closing Palestinian educational institutes in addition to the repressive measures against teachers and Arab students. The denunciation made special reference to the recent Israeli measures taken against the Nahlat Al Najah University and Birzeit University on the West Bank.

The participants appealed to the world's intellectuals and scholars to work within the framework of their national and international organisations and to take steps towards curtailing Israel's arbitrary measures and continued oppression. The participants hailed the steadfastness of Palestinians and Arab educational institutions in the face of the Israeli drive to enact demographic changes in the occupied territories.

The QOU project is still under study by international experts in the field of open learning. The aims are to give people the opportunity to learn by themselves and to depend on their learning abilities to improve their knowledge.

When established, the QOU will enable people to obtain higher education while earning a living wherever they are.

Israelis shoot dead Palestinian child in West Bank camp

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrators chanting slogans, burning tyres and throwing stones; witnesses quoted by AP said.

By the time reporters arrived, shops were shuttered and the streets were deserted except for Israeli soldiers patrolling on foot and in jeeps to enforce a curfew.

A second Israeli woman was slightly injured when her car was pelted with stones near the Jewish settlement of Psagot near the town

of Hebron, Israel Radio said. Palestinians said the new spate of violence was triggered by increased Israeli harassment of students at roadblocks and a wave of anti-Arab violence last month by Jewish extremists in Jerusalem.

They are also worried about the fate of beleaguered fellow Palestinians fighting Amal militiamen in South Lebanon.

In the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, a Palestinian suspected of

collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities was shot dead overnight in what appeared to be a political killing, said the Palestine Press Service, which monitors activity in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem.

Israeli police confirmed that a Palestinian had been killed but said they did not know the motive.

Police said tear gas was used earlier to break up a protest at the Mamounieh high school in East Jerusalem's commercial centre. Stones hurled by demonstrators

smashed the windows of several buses in scattered incidents in the city, but no one was injured, police said.

In occupied Gaza City, 500 schoolgirls marched down the main street waving the banned Palestinian flag and defiantly shouting at soldiers, said witnesses quoted by AP.

"We sacrifice our soul and blood for you, our martyr," the girls chanted. Troops showed the girls off the streets but did not open fire, the witnesses said.

Troops surrounded Gaza's Jaffa school and fired warning shots to break up a separate demonstration.

Israel Radio reported that the U.S. State Department has questioned the Israeli embassy in Washington about the Palestinian unrest.

The Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Monday condemned the Israeli actions saying it was a terrorist campaign against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement called on the world community to shoulder its responsibilities to stop such acts against the Palestinian people.

"This will only be achieved after the withdrawal of Israeli occupation from all Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem and the return of the Palestinian people's rights including self-determination, led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its just representative," the statement added.

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BOOKSHOP

Olives — perennial favourite of Jordanian farmers

Text and photo by
Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This year's olive harvest, which is expected to be completed by mid-December, will be a good one, but the final yields are not likely to be available before January 1987, according to Director of Highland Development Project Ahmad Rimawi. The first rains, which came particularly early in October this year, did the olives a world of good, he added. Before, they had been poorly developed with a low oil content, as could be expected after the previous very dry seasons. But another more important reason for a good harvest is the fact that olive trees naturally produce high yields only every second year. This rhythm is more obvious in Jordan, where in addition to a harsh climate, fertilising and irrigation practices are not always perfect and damaging harvesting methods such as hitting the trees with branches with sticks — are still in use, Mr. Rimawi added.

The second, heavy rains at the beginning of November are not likely to have affected this year's harvest as much, but coming harvests will benefit from the greatly increased soil moisture. The whole harvest in most parts of Jordan has been delayed by about a week by the second rains, he said, but no damage to speak of has been done to olive farmers.

Jordan between Amman and Irbid and on the slopes down to the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Rimawi explained that Jordanian farmers prefer olives to other crops for several reasons. First, olives are very well-adapted to the dry and hot climate. It is possible to grow them in areas with as little as 250 mm of annual rainfall, he said, although below 300 mm of rainfall they drastically reduce their growth rate and give unsatisfactory yields. The second reason is that the growing of olives is relatively easy and does not require any specialist skills, an important factor for many Jordanian farmers who frequently come from a non-farming, often bedouin background. Olives in Jordan also have a very good



Olive groves in hilly areas near Salt

the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) to help farmers with the olive harvest, indicates. According to RSCN Director Maher Abu Ja'far, the expenditure for harvesting the olives amount to as much as 50 per cent of the total production costs and therefore, the RSCN agreed with the Ministry of Education to rally pupils from secondary schools to help farmers harvest the olives on a voluntary basis. Presently, labourers around the towns (Amman, Salt, Jerash) are available at rates of JD 3,000 to JD 3,500 per day for the harvest, while farmers in remote areas have to cover the cost for the transport for their labourers. Otherwise, if they cannot fall back on their family for the harvest,

at JD 2,000 per kg, which is more than double the price of imported olive oil, such as that from Tunisia. This high price is maintained by import restrictions. As the international market for olives and olive oil is also saturated — olive oil is already one of the European Community's excess products — Jordan's expensive oil does not stand a great chance of entering the EC market.

At the moment, there is no real problem for the farmer to sell his olives on the local market, and quite a large amount of the oil and pickled olives are still distributed within families, following a deeply rooted belief that one's own olive oil is always the best. But in the coming five to ten years, olive groves in Jordan could occur, when all the trees that have been planted during the last five years start to yield. In fact, advisers for the Zarqa River Project are now advising farmers not to plant any more olives but to diversify their orchards with other fruit trees such as apricots, pears, figs etc.

Concerning their olives, farmers should concentrate on improving their stock by means of regular pruning, fertilising and irrigating the trees if necessary. These measures could increase the oil content of the olives to nearly 30 per cent, while with the local varieties — mainly Nabaleh from Palestine — contents vary from 15 to 20 per cent.

Olive trees start yielding in their fifth to seventh year, their productivity rises up to the 35th year to remain constant for the following 80 to 120 years, then declining slowly.

All over Jordan, the Nabaleh variety is liked best by the farmers, Mr. Rimawi said. Trials conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce Italian species were a complete failure as these more Mediterranean varieties needed too much humidity. Improved varieties of Nabaleh and other local sorts were no success either as their fruits and oil did not suit the farmers' taste and the traditional olive varieties continue to be grown all over Jordan as well as the West Bank.

Favourite fruit tree

In the Jordanian highlands, particularly the Western parts, more olive trees spring from the ground every year. Presently, they seem to be the farmers' favourite fruit tree crop.

There are two major projects in Jordan which, among other things, promote and support the establishment of orchards, the Highland Development Project and the Zarqa River Basin Project, being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with foreign assistance. Both projects operate in the main olive growing areas of

market and marketing facilities through government-run, wholesale markets in Amman, Salt, Irbid, Jerash and Mafrqa, while the very early olives are being sold along the roadsides.

Last year, one kilogramme of raw olives fetched 400 fils (JD 0.400), and prices are fairly stable from year to year, Mr. Rimawi added.

Help with the harvest

But the rush to the olive is not entirely without difficulties, as an emergency programme recently initiated by the Royal Society for

they have to employ contractors. There is also very little scope for mechanisation in olive harvesting apart from the use of so-called tree shakers.

Marketing

According to an expert working with the Zarqa River Basin Project, the high production costs of olives and olive oil in Jordan make it very unlikely that they will be able to compete on the international market in the foreseeable future. Locally produced olive oil is presently sold



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BACK IN JORDAN

The unmaking of a president: What now?

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — No sadder tale could be spun in this holiday season than the unraveling of yet another presidency. The sickeningly swift downward spiral of Ronald Reagan's government in the last four weeks has taken the cheer out of the atmosphere and cast a dark shadow on prospects for the New Year.

It is almost impossible to remember that only four weeks ago, Mr. Reagan was asking voters, as a favour to him, to keep the Senate in Republican hands. They said no, and the loss of the Republican majority on Nov. 4 was blow enough to Mr. Reagan's hopes. But a larger storm was brewing in the story that broke that same day, the first report of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Now that escapade and its secret corollary, the covert financing of the effort to overthrow the Sandinist government in Nicaragua, have blown up in the president's face. He has taken to his favourite medium, television, three times to explain how this happened. Each time the unanswered questions have been more obvious, the improbabilities more glaring, the reaction more skeptical.

When things go this wrong this fast, you have to suppose that something truly corrosive is at work. It is. As Representative Dick Cheney of Wyoming, the able former chief of staff to President Gerald Ford, remarked: "It's a pretty fundamental flaw that would allow a lieutenant colonel on the White House staff to operate in defiance of the law."

What allowed this kind of renegade behaviour to develop in the White House — only 12 years after the hard-earned lesson of

Watergate — was a combination of factors for which Mr. Reagan is ultimately responsible if not directly culpable.

He is least to blame for the hubris — the arrogance and pride — which infected the White House after his 49-state re-election victory. Thank the voters for that.

The president got no swelled head, but the same could not be said about his staff aides, particularly the newcomers who had no personal part in the victorious campaign and no history of living through earlier

political setbacks. They behaved — toward Congress, the press and the bureaucracy — as if Mr. Reagan's temporary grant of power from the voters were a license for them to impose their will on the nation. And to be honest, many of us in the press fed their egos by writing of "the Reagan revolution," calling the Republican Party the "new majority" and heaping scorn on the demoralised Democrats and the divided Congress.

Blame Mr. Reagan much more for the rapid growth of the cult of

secrecy that infected the White House atmosphere in the second term. It was Mr. Reagan who avoided news conferences during the re-election campaign and made them as scarce as Redskins tickets thereafter. It was Mr. Reagan who went on the warpath about "leaks." Mr. Reagan who raged about "unauthorised" disclosures of his policies, Mr. Reagan who pushed, against the protests of the George Shultzes and Jim Bakers, for wiretapping of government officials.

How often do presidents have to learn the lesson that in this

society the neurotic quest for secrecy undermines effective government? How can they forget so quickly that the only sustainable policy in a nation like America is one that can be articulated and defended in open debate? What an irony and what a tragedy to see yet another president, who has warned his associates to keep their mouths shut, come before the cameras with the pitiful complaint that those same aides did not tell him what they were up to.

Leave it to history to render

judgement on a trait of Mr. Reagan's so basic that one can neither blame him nor exonerate him: He delegates the hard work of governing, of managing policy, to others. He always has been comfortable as the spokesman, the front man, and he always has avoided finding out how programmes work.

The voters have never cared much about his disdain for the gritty-gritty of government. For most of his tenure as governor of the largest state and as president, they have had no need to mind, for he has chosen competent assistants. In this second term, his luck — and that of Americans — has run out. The man to whom he delegated most power, Chief of Staff Donald Regan, is an individual whose love of power far exceeds his ability to exercise it. Mr. Regan has been allowed to do the most dangerous thing possible: secure his own primacy by downgrading the level of ability in the other White House and executive office positions.

He is a manipulator surrounded by sycophants. And to imagine that one of those sycophants, the ousted national security adviser, Vice Admiral John Poindexter, was pursuing an operation of the scale of the Iran-Nicaragua fiasco without the knowledge or approval of his master, Don Regan, stretches belief.

The president cannot remake himself into a hands-on policy manager at this stage of his life. But he owes the nation and himself a more competent and candid chief of staff. As the man who instituted the cult of secrecy, he needs to signal an end to its corrosive influence, by coming out of the shadows and telling the whole story of what went wrong — The Washington Post.

The real meaning

STEPPED-UP Palestinian protests all over the occupied territories in the last few weeks demonstrate all too well Arab rejection of the status quo and the Israeli military occupation and practices. It should have dawned on Israeli officials by now that no matter how long their occupation of Arab territories last and how harsh their oppression of the Palestinian people is, the Israelis will have to let the occupied territories go and the inhabitants of these territories regain their inalienable rights.

No-one should be deceived by the occasional calmness or the facade of normalcy which permeate life in the occupied territories. At most such temporary "returns to normalcy" are no more than a respite in the perpetual Palestinian struggle for freedom and salvation.

The latest flare-up in the West Bank and Gaza have ostensibly been caused by the killing of two Birzeit students by Israeli troops. In fact the killing of the two students, which was followed by the killing of a 14-year-old boy from the Balata refugee camp and yesterday's murder of another child in the same place, are but the symptoms of the continuous ugly practices which the Israeli occupation forces are daily perpetrating against the Arab inhabitants. Obviously, there are no palliative solution to the violence and protests in the occupied territories. There is indeed but one solution to the cycle of violence there, and it lies squarely in ending the Israeli occupation and granting the Palestinians their freedom and rights. It is incumbent on all the countries which shed crocodile tears over the tragic events occurring in the West Bank and Gaza to begin translating whatever sentiments they have into practice by breathing life into peace efforts that can end Palestinian suffering. The allies of Israel should serve notice on Israel to be more forthcoming in the quest for peace and justice in our region. Otherwise the frustration that is brewing underneath the surface will soon erupt into a giant ball of fire and destruction that will engulf the whole area. The time when a people can enslave another people has long passed and the Israelis of all people should be the first to comprehend this meaning which has been borne out by history time and again.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Trying an end for 'camps war'

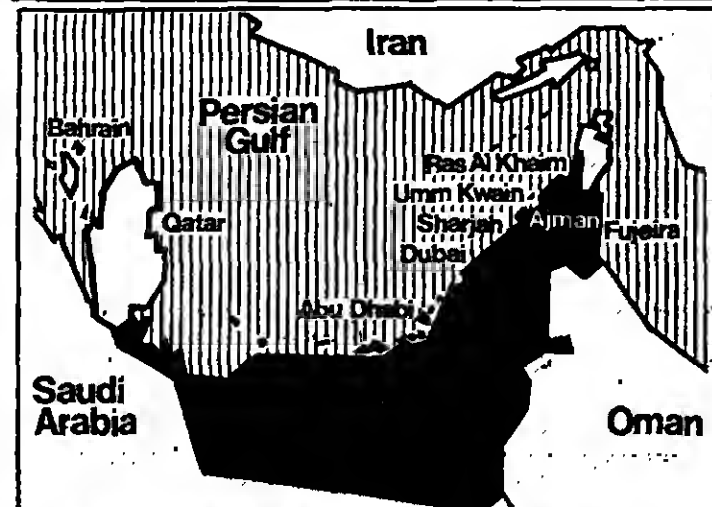
AN emergency meeting by Arab foreign ministers was due to open in Tunis on Monday upon a call by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to discuss what has become known as the "camps war" in Lebanon. It is rather difficult to predict the outcome of the meeting at this stage, but it is useful to point out that a number of Arab countries are boycotting the emergency session, and these countries have directly or indirectly expressed their unwillingness to take part. This means that those absent could disregard the resolutions and recommendations that might be passed by the Arab ministers. The Lebanese government went a further step than this when it totally rejected the idea of such a meeting because, it said, it was not upon a call by Lebanon itself on whose land the fighting is being waged. But the Lebanese factions involved in the current "camps war" have failed to reach agreement on ending the bloodshed and the tragedy, or at least to hold a long term ceasefire, and therefore, the meeting in Tunis has become so necessary. The ministers' meeting is rather an expression of the Arab peoples' belief that the on-going fighting bears the seeds of danger that threatens the whole Arab Nation. What is more important now is the meeting itself, and the efforts that the Arab ministers will exert in ending the conflict because such a war is aimed at liquidating the presence of a whole group of people with no exception. In fact the Arabs are in need of a meeting at the summit level to find proper means of bringing about reconciliation among various factions of that embattled country.

Al Dustour: Israel shows its ugly face

THE Israeli occupation authorities have over the past few days unveiled the ugliest face of Zionism by launching a war of genocide against the inhabitants of Arab cities, villages and refugee camps in areas under their occupation. They have waged campaigns of repression and organised terrorism and intimidation like all other colonial and imperialist powers throughout history. Israel has been trying hard to conceal its ugly face from the world public, and has been covertly carrying out repressive campaigns against the Arab population. But the recent events in the occupied West Bank have exposed the genuine face of Israel specially after the killing of Arab youths in Birzeit University and Balata refugee camp. In fact, the Israelis are portraying themselves to the world as following in the footsteps of the South African regime whose atrocities against the majority have been condemned by the whole world. But this repressive policy and these acts of terrorism against the Arab population are bound to draw a very strong reaction in the form of a national front capable of standing up to the Israeli enemy and Zionist atrocities. The Israelis who are escalating their repressive measures against our kinsmen in the occupied territories should expect a more determined effort on the part of our people to resist all forms of aggression and terrorism.

Sawt Al Shaab: Joint action needed

THE Israeli "iron fist" employed in the occupied Arab territories against Arab resistance is being strengthened by American support and continuous assistance. But it is also being bolstered by the absence of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action that can put an end to such atrocities. The Israelis are going ahead with plans for evicting Arab people, demolishing their homes and confiscating their land in total defiance of the Arab Nation. This same Israeli enemy in collusion with the Iranian enemy and through American weapons is launching another war on the Arabs on the eastern flank of the Arab World. At the same time, the Israelis are fuelling the ongoing war in South Lebanon and setting one faction against another, thus keeping the Arabs busy with their conflicts and their own affairs. All these enemy plans being implemented on Arab land are directed against the whole Arab Nation. All this is being done as many Arabs are looking on and doing nothing as if they are not concerned, quite oblivious of the fact that such aggression will sooner or later affect every Arab country. We once again underline the need for a joint Arab effort to deal with these pressing issues and save Arab blood and Arab rights and homeland.



UAE slows quest for unity after fifteen years

By Philip Sheldahl
Reuters

ABU DHABI — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) marked 15 years in existence on Dec. 3, the process of building a federation of seven sheikhdoms slowed by recession but still enduring as a rare example of Arab unity.

"We are still moving ahead, but not as fast as before," said one businessman in Abu Dhabi, wealthiest of the seven Gulf emirates and capital of the UAE.

A wide spectrum of officials and citizens of the UAE agree the momentum has slackened and cite two main factors:

— Economic downturn brought on by a big fall in oil revenues.

— Continued differences over the future shape of the federation. Yet sceptics did not think the federation would last this long. They believed the mini-states, each with independent rulers, tribes and histories, would never cohere once the British withdrew after 150 years of rule.

Since December 2, 1971, federal laws and institutions have placed the once-feuding emirates under a common umbrella and oil wealth has cemented the union with roads, hospitals and schools.

Federal laws continue to replace those of individual emirates, but too slowly for some who want stronger federal planning to lift the UAE out of recession.

Oil exports are expected to tumble this year to around 40 per cent of 1980's income of \$72 billion, leading to a decline in government spending — the motor of the economy.

The federal budget has been disproportionately hit. Federal development spending slumped to \$110 million last year from \$202 million in 1984 and amounted to only \$1.4 million in the first quarter of this year.

By contrast, Abu Dhabi emirate boosted development spending last year to \$1.1 billion from \$1 billion in 1984.

"The role of federal institutions is virtually frozen compared to the important role they played in the first years of the federation," wrote the Sharjah daily Al Khaleej.

"Federal institutions have become mere appendages of local

ones whereas the natural situation should be the complete reverse," the paper complained.

Officials counter that a decline in federal spending is inevitable given completion of major infrastructural projects.

Dubai, second wealthiest of the emirates, has traditionally favoured a more decentralised federal concept in line with its entrepreneurial economy. But other emirates, particularly Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, have tended to want more centralisation.

The UAE Supreme Council, grouping rulers of the seven emirates, agreed last October to extend the country's provisional constitution for another five years.

This left the emirates to make decisions on matters such as internal security and oil and disappointed those favouring a permanent constitution giving the federal state more power.

One of the thorniest problems is financing the UAE budget, which depends largely on the oil revenue of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. A constitutional amendment requires the emirates to hand over 50 per cent of their oil revenue to the federal coffers.

The budget is always late and provoked Al Khaleej to write that the delay was not a problem of adequate resources "but of the lack of complete commitment to financing the budget as the constitution specifies."

Abu Dhabi and Dubai officials deny they are shirking their commitments.

In many ways the emirates remain separate.

All but the smallest two, Ajman and Umm Al Quwain, have modern airports although some are just a few miles apart.

Dubai last year launched its own airline Emirates, which competes with the regional carrier Gulf Air, partly owned by Abu Dhabi along with Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Liquor is banned in Sharjah hotels but not elsewhere, while traffic laws differ from one emirate to another. Seat belts are required in Dubai, but not across the border in Sharjah.

Yet diplomats and officials say the common interest in a federation far outweighs the differences.

Americans got the administration they wanted

By James Reston

WASHINGTON — The events of recent weeks have to make us wonder not merely what is happening in the Reagan administration but what is happening to America. Where are we going?

The scandal over sneaking weapons to Iran and Nicaragua is merely the most dramatic symbol of a wider corruption. We see the "insiders" at work not only on Pennsylvania Avenue but with the Iran Bessky's of Wall Street, the political hucksters of Madison Avenue and the television preachers of Main Street. "Give us this day our daily broadcast!"

History seemed to be trying to tell us something this last Thanksgiving week: The Treasury Department was telling us that we have the largest private and federal debt in the nation's history. The Commerce Department was telling us that our record trade deficit was not the fault of Japanese brilliance but of our own industrial mismanagement.

It would not be fair to excuse the American people. They got precisely the government they wanted and deserved. Ronald Reagan did not really deceive them. Every quality or lack thereof that he has demonstrated in the White House was apparent and reported when he was in Sacramento as governor of California.

His ideology did not change at home or abroad. His Saturday afternoon broadcasts from the White House have been rewrites of his free enterprise and anti-Communist sermons for General Electric long before he got into politics.

In a way, Mr. Reagan was more candid than his recent predecessors. He did not pretend, like Messrs. Carter, Nixon and Johnson, that he could master all the mysteries of foreign and economic policy. He delegated authority to his appointees in the cabinet and the White House. But he chose most of them from among his geographic and philosophic cronies, who liked him and tended to tell him what he wanted to hear.

In six years he has had five assistants as head of the National Security Council, which lately has been operating as a secret government within the White House, protected by executive privilege beyond the law and beyond review by Congress.

He did not know what Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North

was doing in the Executive Office building across the street or what he was saying to the Iranians or what papers he was shredding when the game was exposed.

In Donald Regan we have a chief of staff running what he calls a "shovel brigade" to clean up the mess. A brigade of publicity manipulators and speech writers produces copy for the invisible TelePrompTers. The cabinet gives different explanations of what it is all about on Sunday morning television shows.

In short, with the best intentions and the worst operations, this



was doing in the Executive Office building across the street or what he was saying to the Iranians or what papers he was shredding when the game was exposed.

In Donald Regan we have a chief of staff running what he calls a "shovel brigade" to clean up the mess. A brigade of publicity manipulators and speech writers produces copy for the invisible TelePrompTers. The cabinet gives different explanations of what it is all about on Sunday morning television shows.

In short, with the best intentions and the worst operations, this

administration has been trying to be too shrewd and too calculating with too little help from experienced men and women at a time when the people need to know what must be done for the security of their children.

The mistakes and the fiasco of the Iran-Nicaragua caper are not all that important in themselves. The fate of the nation does not hang on any of them. But upon trust in the government and the integrity of its word much depends. This is what has been lost in recent months — The New York Times.

Are 'Watergate' dangers receding for Reagan?

By Charles Bremner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's fall from grace over his Iran scandal will affect the rest of his presidency. But his latest actions have helped avert the risk of a Watergate-style crisis, commentators say.

By switching to a conciliatory tone on Saturday and conceding some mistakes were made over the Iran affair, Reagan moved towards calming the political storm that has gripped Washington for the past three weeks.

"I pledge to you. I will set things right," he said.

The New York Times called the promise "a welcome step on the hard road back to pride."

Reagan's aides hope that the appointment of judicial and congressional investigators and the president's expression of regret mean that the worst of the "Iranagate" scandal could be over.

However, the president is still under pressure to fire his chief of staff, Donald Regan, and the affair is expected to drag on for months as the investigation proceeds.

Reagan's previously great popularity has plunged as the story of the White House arms sales to Iran and secret diversion of the profits to Nicaraguan rebels has unfolded.

With revelations daily on the

front page of the Washington Post and the appointment of a special prosecutor, the affair has evoked strong echoes of the Watergate scandal that ended the presidency of Richard Nixon in 1974.

Reporters, throwing themselves with glee into the pursuit of White House dirty-dealing, have even devised a Reagan variant of the famous question about Nixon's role in the Watergate burglary: "What did the president know and when did he know it?"

The new version, alluding to Reagan's renowned problems with detail is: "What did the president forget and when did he forget it?"

But commentators and analysts generally agree that despite striking parallels, including a cast of shade and colourful characters, the Iran affair has nothing like the dimension of full-blown political scandal that marked Watergate.

The debacle stems from the misconduct of foreign policy, the Washington Post said, drawing the comparison.

"The crimes that became known collectively as Watergate were committed in pursuit of political power," the Post said.

"Watergate began as a bungled burglary in a political headquarters during the presidential campaign of 1972. It spread from a cover-up into a criminal conspiracy." Commentators have been

making the point that despite his sharp drop in approval ratings, Reagan is still seen by Americans as an honest leader.

"It just isn't possible to work up a hostility to Ronald Reagan like the loathing people had for Nixon," wrote Lawrence Meyer, a journalist who covered the Watergate story. "Having Reagan is like getting mad at your grandfather."

Reagan's opponents from the Democratic Party have also been careful to avoid appearing to question the president's veracity, preferring to home in on the record of the White House staff and the damage to the presidency.

Barring revelations that Reagan had lied, the Iran affair will probably recede slowly from the foreground in the remaining two years of Reagan's presidency, analysts say.

Diplomats from West European and Asian embassies in Washington told Reuters they were reporting home that the Reagan presidency, though deeply shaken, was very unlikely to disintegrate over the Iran affair.

But the allies, already shocked by Reagan's readiness to switch North Atlantic Treaty Organisation strategy in a dramatic disarmament deal at the Reykjavik U.S.-Soviet summit, are worried about the implications of a weakened president who may be unable to focus on other issues

because of the Iran distraction. While allied leaders have avoided direct comment, the head of Britain's opposition Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, said in Washington last Thursday it would be "terrible if the main engine of U.S. foreign policy was to stop the ship and stand in the water simply because of a self-inflicted blow."

Henry Kissinger, Nixon's former secretary of state and national security adviser, said the greatest damage from the Iran scandal was the threat of political paralysis.

"My advice to President Reagan is conduct foreign policy as if there were no scandal," he said on television.

Some commentators said Reagan would stand a good chance of putting the Iran affair behind him if he made further personnel changes and ordered his former staff to testify fully on their activities.

So far only national security adviser John Poindexter and his staff member Oliver North have left the White House. Both refused to testify to congressional investigators last week, citing a constitutional right to remain silent. Both the president's opponents and supporters say he should replace Regan, whose alleged autocratic style has been widely cited over the past few weeks as a factor in the Iran scandal.

1987 budget seeks to bolster past economic achievements

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

The following is part II of a two-part article detailing the allocations given to various ministries under the new 1987 draft budget that was presented to Parliament on Saturday by the minister of finance. Part I appeared in Monday's issue of the Jordan Times.

Economic development services

This sector, allocated a total of JD 229,249 million, groups the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Planning/Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning/National Planning Council, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Archaeology/Tourism, Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs/Urban Development Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources/Natural Resources Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan Valley Authority and Ministry of Supply.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade was budgeted JD 908,000 for recurrent spending and JD 460,000 for capital spending. Recurrent expenditures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 826,000 and JD 757,000 respectively for the recurrent part and JD 240,000 for the capital part in 1986. There was no capital expenditures in 1985.

Participation or share payment in various Arab and international organisations amounted to JD 125,000 in the recurrent section which was mainly for salaries, allowances, pension and various administrative expenses.

Amman International Fair was appropriated JD 350,000 in capital spending while JD 90,000 was earmarked for purchasing equipment and JD 20,000 for studies and researches.

The Ministry of Planning/General statistics Department was allocated JD 541,000 and JD 555,000 for recurrent and developmental capital expenditures respectively. Compared to 1986 and 1985 figures, the recurrent spending was JD 446,000 and JD 452,000 while the capital expenditure was reestimated at JD 451,000 and JD 76,000 respectively.

Studies and statistical surveys

were projected at JD 400,000 in capital spending, new equipment and cars were allocated JD 90,000 and relocation of the computer and other miscellaneous training expenses were expected to cost JD 45,000.

The Ministry of Planning/National Planning Council was budgeted JD 639,000 and JD 149 million for recurrent and developmental capital spending respectively. For 1986 and 1985 reestimates, the amounts were JD 627,000 and JD 494,000 (recurrent) and JD 120,526 million and JD 79,889 million (capital) respectively.

The capital spending under this category was classified as follows:

- 1) JD 3 million for studies (including energy studies);
- 2) JD 400,000 for supporting research institutes and joint or contractual research agreements;
- 3) JD 300,000 (participation or share in financing) for projects under the United Nations Development Programme;
- 4) JD 34,300 million (participation or share in financing) for projects to be originally financed by foreign loans and grants;
- 5) JD 1 million for the Aqaba Thermal Power Project;
- 6) JD 4,950 million for road projects (Zarqa/Mafraq/Syrian border, Zarqa ring-road or Zarqa bypass, Amman/Nauwa/Dead Sea, Al Zarqa/Ghor Hadithah, Al Zarqa/Al Safaw/Al Ruweished, Al Yutun/South Aqaba, Salt/Central Ghor and Al Jawdeh/Sawagah);
- 7) JD 1,200 million for repairing railroads;
- 8) JD 6,500 million for education projects;
- 9) JD 12 million for water and sewage projects in Aqaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Russeifah, northern and southern cities, the greater Amman and Balqa governorate;
- 10) JD 2 million for telecommunication projects;
- 11) JD 600,000 for agricultural projects in the Zarqa River basin, Hamad basin and the highlands;
- 12) JD 1,130 million for urban development projects;

The amount for recurrent expenditures totalled JD 930,000 in 1986 and JD 864,000 in 1985 according to reestimates for those years. For 1987, an additional JD 50,000 was earmarked for training engineers at the Ministry of Public Works.

The capital spending was down JD 217,000 from the 1986 figure which was higher than 1985 by about JD 285,000. Major outlays in this section include JD 165,000 for studies and research, JD 258,000 to draw plans, organise land usage and air photography, JD 90,000 to buy equipment and cars and JD 50,000 for construction costs in rural areas.

The Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment Development Department was allocated JD 452,000 in recurrent spending for the first time without any amount for capital spending (though included under allocations for the Ministry of Planning).

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was budgeted JD 157,000 in recurrent spending, up JD 43,000 from this year's reestimate and higher by JD 126,000 from the 1985 figure. Included in the recurrent spending was JD 42,000 being Jordan's participation in the various international energy organisations.

No capital expenditure was allocated to the ministry although large amounts were set aside for energy studies under separate allocations.

Spending by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources/Natural Resources Authority was envisaged at JD 1,280 million (recurrent) and JD 11 million (capital developmental).

Less by JD 42,000 in recurrent expenditures, than reestimated for 1986, the amount includes JD 30,000 being Jordan's participation in the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources.

The capital spending was earmarked as follows:

- a) JD 9,307 million for oil exploration (JD 4 million for studies and research, JD 3,547 million for equipment, JD 325,000 for construction and other miscellaneous items);
- b) JD 306,000 for general exploration;
- c) JD 248,000 for general geological survey;
- d) JD 320,000 for seismology;
- e) JD 125,000 for exploring thermal energy;
- f) JD 573,000 for the oil shale project;
- g) JD 121,000 for geological design of cities and public areas.

The Ministry of Public Works was envisaged to spend JD 2,729 million (recurrent) and JD 24,480 million (capital). Recurrent spending in 1986 and 1985 amounted to JD 2,650 million and JD 2,379 million respectively while capital expenditure for the two years was JD 23 million and JD 15,850 million respectively.

Recurrent spending for 1987 was envisaged as follows:

- a) JD 2,009 million for administration, technical departments and construction directorates;
- b) JD 165,000 million for buildings departments;
- c) JD 57,000 for government tenders department;
- d) JD 498,000 for Royal

Palaces;

Capital expenditures was allocated as follows:

- 1) JD 3,500 million for roads maintenance;
- 2) JD 460,000 for studies and research;
- 3) JD 18,100 million for construction projects and for asphalt roads mainly rural and secondary roads (unspecified), Zarqa/Sukheh/Jarash road, Sweih/Salt road, Marj Al Hammam/Airport road connections, Rahah/Yarmouk University road, Refinery/Al Azraq triangle, Rashadieh/Desert road and many others;
- 4) JD 1,750 million for Royal Palaces.

The Ministry of Agriculture was allocated JD 5,183 million for recurrent spending and JD 2,474 million for capital spending. The figures compare with JD 4,915 million and JD 4,407 million in recurrent spending for 1986 and 1985 and JD 2,066 million and JD 1,819 million in capital expenditures respectively.

The government's contributions to seven Arab and international organisations amount to JD 105,000 of the ministry's recurrent outlays.

Out of the total envisaged in capital spending, the Ministry of Agriculture will spend JD 165,000 to buy equipment, cars and tractors, JD 200,000 for construction, JD 935,000 on forestation and grazing projects, JD 608,000 on nurseries, JD 429,000 on developing highlands, JD 61,000 on improving agricultural produces and JD 2,474 million on soil and water preservation in the King Talal Dam basin.

The Jordan Valley Authority was allocated JD 3,694 million for recurrent spending and JD 22,260 million for capital spending.

The recurrent expenditure was JD 294,000 higher than the 1986 reestimate while the capital spending was down from both 1986 and 1985 figures which totalled JD 24,113 million and JD 45,465 million respectively.

The capital expenditure was broken down as follows:

- a) JD 1,850 million for general administration mainly to compensate landowners for land appropriations at a cost of JD 750,000 and for electrifying the Jordan Valley at a cost of JD 630,000;
- b) JD 680,000 for constructing

and maintaining roads and for organisation plans for cities;

- c) JD 330,000 for Wadi Al Arab Dam;
- d) JD 3,465 million to raise the capacity of King Talal Dam;
- e) JD 900,000 for Al Karamah Dam;
- f) JD 300,000 for maintenance of other dams and for research and studies;
- g) JD 1,050 for extending the Ghor Canal;
- h) JD 800,000 for irrigating Central Ghor;
- i) JD 1,060 million for irrigating Southern Ghor;
- j) JD 56,000 for underground water storage schemes;
- k) JD 900,000 for miscellaneous expenses by the irrigation directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture;
- l) JD 611,000 to develop Wadi Araba;
- m) JD 270,000 for various mechanical workshops.

The Ministry of Supply was budgeted JD 867,000 in recurrent spending and JD 80,000 in capital spending. Figures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 830,000 and JD 787,000 respectively for recurrent and JD 753,000 and 863,000 respectively for capital expenditure which for 1987 will all go for buying cars and equipping storage facilities.

The economic development services accounted for 22.5 per cent of the total budget.

Social services

This sector, allocated a total of JD 118,475 million, groups the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Occupied Territories.

The Ministry of Education was budgeted JD 70,325 million for recurrent expenditures and JD 6,250 million for ordinary and developmental capital spending.

Divided among 10 sections and mostly reflecting salaries, cost of living expenses, transportation expenses, rents and pensions the major items were as follows:

- a) JD 3,743 million for the administration;
- b) JD 59,999 million for general education;
- c) JD 435,000 for the Hotel Training College;
- d) JD 1,242 million for vocational training;

and maintaining roads and for organisation plans for cities;

- c) JD 180,000 for illiteracy and adult education;
- d) JD 825,000 for educational activities;
- e) JD 370,000 for the Rehabilitation and Training Centre;
- f) JD 1,250 million for general examinations;
- g) JD 1,832 million for school textbooks and teaching aids.

The total recurrent spending was JD 3,022 million higher than the 1986 reestimate which in itself was higher than 1985 by JD 7,424 million.

Capital expenditure was allocated as follows:

- JD 268,000 for purchasing equipment, furniture and cars and JD 250,000 for studies and research — all for capital spending on administration purposes.
- JD 639,000 for purchasing furniture, JD 3,729 million for various construction costs of schools and JD 132,000 for equipment and apparatus — all for capital spending on general education.
- JD 250,000 for equipment, JD 770,000 for construction costs and JD 48,000 for furniture — all for capital spending on vocational education.
- JD 50,000 for agricultural education mainly for construction cost of Al Rabbia Agricultural School (JD 32,000) and JD 10,000 for furniture.

For educational activities, capital spending was set at JD 105,000 mainly for miscellaneous equipment and furniture.

The Ministry of Higher Education was budgeted JD 6,991 million for recurrent expenditure and JD 500,000 for capital spending. The recurrent spending, which compared with JD 6,680 million for 1986 and JD 4,180 million for 1985, was allocated as follows:

- a) JD 1,087 million for administration;
- b) JD 3,064 million for community colleges;
- c) JD 2,485 million for scholarships;
- d) JD 355,000 for the diploma

In capital spending, JD 500,000 will go to community colleges for costs of equipment, furniture and cars, JD 150,000 for studies and research and JD 50,000 for equipment will be the capital spending on the part of the administration.

The Ministry of Health was appropriated JD 26,250 million for recurrent spending and JD 4,825 million in capital (ordinary and developmental) spending.

The increase that the Ministry of Health was given over 1986 recurrent spending reestimate amount to JD 450,000. The 1985 figure was JD 21 million. Among the many items in recurrent expenditure, JD 800,000 was for scholarships and JD 680,000 for rents.

Capital expenditure for the Ministry of Health will mainly be for purchasing cars and equipment at a total cost of JD 2,600 million. Land and buildings were estimated to cost 1,625 million, research and studies to amount to JD 200,000 while general maintenance was envisaged at JD 400,000.

The capital spending for the ministry was about 75 per cent over the 1986 figure.

The amount budgeted for the Ministry of Labour and Social Development was broken down into two parts: Labour and social development.

The Social development part was appropriated JD 2,488 million for recurrent expenditure and JD 60,000 for capital spending.

Being less by about JD 654,000 from the total 1986 reestimate, the social development recurrent spending for 1987 was also slashed by about 25 per cent for a total of JD 250,000 in the area of financial aid. The aid in 1986 amounted to JD 1,022 million.

The capital spending for social development will mainly finance some construction costs and purchases of huses and equipment.

For the labour part, only recurrent spending of JD 498,000 was allocated. The projected amount, which was less by JD 16,000 from 1986 reestimate, included JD 47,500 participation or share in both the Arab and International Labour Organisations.

The recurrent spending for the Ministry of Occupied Territories was envisaged at JD 258,000. No capital spending was budgeted.

The amount was JD 38,000 above the 1986 reestimate and JD 57,000 higher than 1985.

The social services accounted for 11.6 per cent of the total budget.

Requiem for Rhine

Gareth Huw Davies

LONDON, England — Two names have become synonymous with environmental disaster in the past two years: Bhopal and Chernobyl. Now a third must be added to the list — Sandoz.

The impact that the flushing away of 1200 tonnes of toxic agricultural chemicals from the Sandoz factory at Basel, Switzerland, had on the rest of Europe is reflected in the exceptional bitterness of the criticism from previously friendly governments which followed the disaster.

"What has happened is completely intolerable," said Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany. The Dutch transport minister, Mrs. Smit-Kroes accused the Swiss of acting, "like misguided fools." Hank Kersten, a representative of the international environmental action group Greenpeace in Amsterdam, summed it up as, without question "the greatest disaster to befall the Rhine in modern times."

Environmental groups marked

the passing of the deadly 80 kilometre slick, made up of 34 chemicals, 30 tonnes of which had a high mercury content, into the North Sea with a Requiem for the Rhine. Their lament will be listened to very seriously by politicians. As at Bhopal, the consequences are likely to be felt around the industrial world for a long time.

Yet in retrospect, there was a dreadful inevitability about the Sandoz spill. Early on November 1, firemen fought a blaze at the chemical manufacturing complex, situated on the edge of Europe's greatest river, which provides 20 million people with drinking water. But the containment reservoir, designed to prevent liquid escape from factory to river, was hopelessly inadequate, with a capacity of only 50 cubic metres. Contaminated water was soon overflowing the reservoir and passing into the river, at 25 cubic metres a minute.

There then followed a period of muddle and delay which has shocked European governments, which had been accustomed to Switzerland's traditional precision

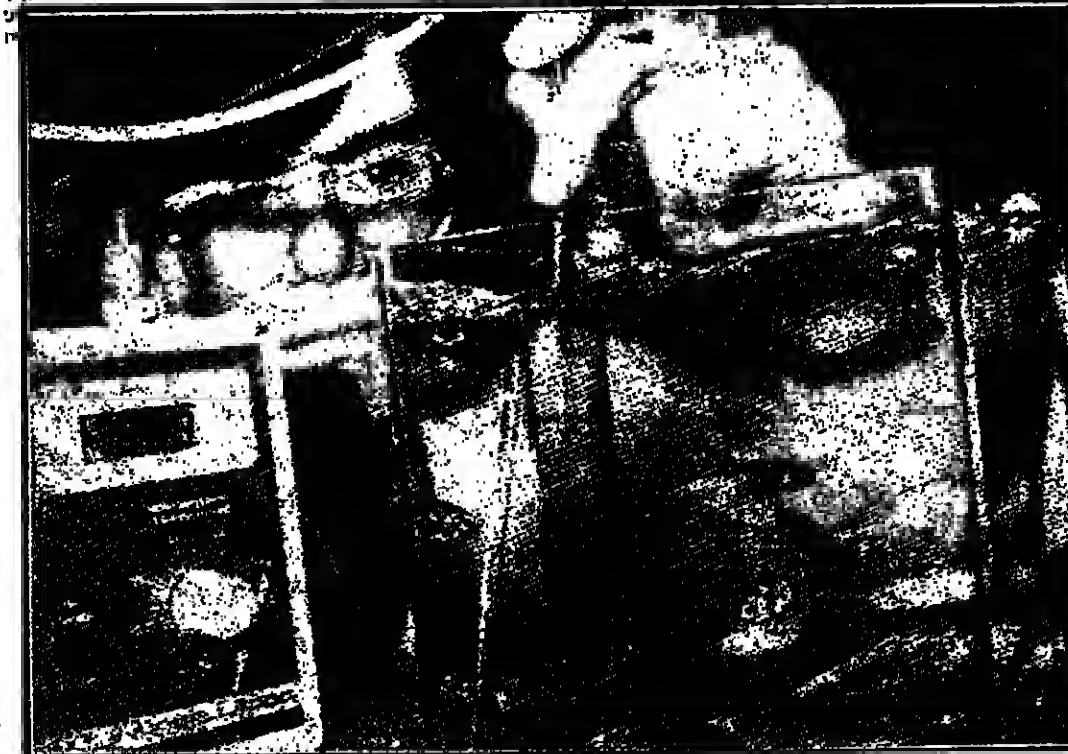
and cleanliness. For two days the Swiss authorities appeared not to know the nature of the escaped chemicals. Crucially, they were unaware that they contained mercury, one of the most harmful non-radioactive substances it is possible to introduce into the environment.

By the time the authorities passed on full details, one third of the 1,400 mile river, which flows along the French border, through West Germany, Holland and into the North Sea, was ecologically dead. The evidence was delivered to the banks in the form of many thousands of dead eels and fish and the river birds which feed upon them.

Villagers were warned away from the river bank and the pumping of water for human consumption was suspended. The Netherlands, ten days downstream of the disaster, at least had time to implement an emergency plan and divert the contaminated Rhine away from an intricate network of canals and into the North Sea. Even so, the amount of mercury found in the Rhine in The Netherlands in a day was equivalent to the maximum concentration permitted for an entire year.

Scientists will spend at least a year assessing the impact of the spill on the river. They fear that the mercury will collect in the silt in the river bed and persist in the river environment, to be taken into the food chain through micro-organisms and into edible fish within two weeks. And they are worried that other poisonous substances, vaporised in the fire, will have come down as rain.

Environmentalists are dismayed at the dramatic setback in the health of the Rhine, which is Europe's longest waterway. It had shown a marked improvement since the 1960s when it was rightly



Testing laboratory fish with samples of Rhine water

known as the sewer of Europe, grossly polluted by the major industrial chemicals dotted along its length. Yet even before Sandoz, industry legally dumped 20 million tonnes of industrial waste into the river. It could now take 20 years for its ecological balance to be restored in a costly programme to reintroduce river creatures.

Sandoz and the Swiss government, as they begin to feel the weight of claims from downstream, are accepting responsibility and promising financial compensation. Politicians have already begun an urgent review of safety at the riverside industrial plants. European environment ministers meet next month to look at ways of repairing the damage and financing a new Rhine protection pact. The West German

Chemicals Industry Association has agreed a number of immediate measures to check and improve safety warning systems at their plants.

The best model for action is the Seveso Directive, a European Community (EEC) policy laid down after an accident in Seveso in Italy in 1979. It imposes safety rules for chemical storage and manufacture on EEC members. But Switzerland is not in the EEC, and has not adopted its safeguards.

The spill will set back the prospects for cleaning up the North Sea as well. In 1981, Greenpeace accused European governments of using the sea as a convenient dump with little regard to long term damage. It identified "hot spots" around the mouths of five rivers, including the Rhine, the Seine and the Tyne. Things

have improved, but not by much, according to the European Environmental Bureau, which represents all the leading European conservation bodies.

Unfortunately, toxic chemicals and the way they circulate through the environment are poorly understood. A new report by the Dutch government on water quality in their sector of the North Sea, due to be published next year, suggests that changes in the ecosystem occur slowly and may not be detectable over a short period.

The Sandoz disaster should at least cause politicians to ponder afresh the wisdom of allowing industry to contaminate with waste the major rivers of Europe and the shallow North Sea, on which so many people depend for food — Earth's feature.

Stop pollution before it is too late

By Hosni Ayesh

Al Rai

It is estimated that about 6,000 tonnes of gas are emitted into the atmosphere of Amman everyday from some 150,000 vehicles of all kinds, roaming the streets of the city. A simple calculation reveals that about 180,000 tonnes of gas a month or about 2 million tonnes a year are dumped into the air that Ammanites breathe. Such gases include carbon dioxide, sulphur, lead, and other oxides. Added to these are also gases emitted by central heating boilers, factories and garbage incinerators.

In other words one can simply say that Amman is constantly covered by a cloud of chemical pollution most hours of the day. This poses a question of whether or not this increasing pollution has a relation to the increase in the mortality of certain vulnerable groups, particularly those experiencing respiratory infections.

The Egyptian capital, where the ratio of cars to the population is smaller than in Amman, has been declared a dangerous city for pregnant women, who were advised to live outside Cairo during pregnancy because of the high degree of pollution in the city. This seems to be necessary for the foetus' health, because it is even affected by smoking.

Just like water pollution, it seems that chemical pollution has become a dangerous phenomenon in the country. And perhaps all these kinds of pollution are relevant to the corruption that pollutes our morals and values. Such kinds of pollution have been revealed through tests of water and food and through falsification

embezzlement, bribes, and nepotism.

Chemical pollution is usually aggravated by incomplete internal combustion, caused by vehicle traffic and the condition of roads in Amman, thus resulting in the emission of crude (unburnt), and poisonous gases. What also aggravates the situation in Amman is the lack of a green cover, which is capable of reducing toxicity of gases.

Adding to this the danger of sound pollution one realises the volume of double health risks that threatens both the nerves and lungs of Ammanites. One really is astonished at medical doctors' ignorance of this phenomenon when they diagnose diseases and prescribe drugs for treatment. Engineers who prepare designs for buildings and industrialists who select machines, install them and operate them should also take this into their account. One is also amazed at people's negligence and failure to plant trees and tend them since trees and water are the biological lung of the environment.

The Middle East Health magazine reported in a recent article that Egypt's delay in taking an action to combat pollution will cost it about \$2 billion to remedy the situation by the year 2000.

We have never heard of or read about a study being undertaken by any of the bodies in charge of this subject, although they have originally been set up to deal with this danger, and given the fact that there are many students of higher studies at Jordanian universities' various faculties of science, agriculture, engineering, and medicine, whom we could benefit from before it is too late.

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Schroeder has tough day against NY

Indianapolis Colts record first win of season

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Giants moved into position to play at home for the next month, including all of their NFL playoff games, and the Indianapolis Colts moved into the winner's circle for the first time Sunday.

The Giants, led by a big play defense that intercepted six Jay Schroeder passes and sacked the Washington quarterback four times, won the NFC East showdown with a 24-14 victory over the Redskins. It was Washington's first loss at home this season, dropping it to 11-3, one game behind the Giants.

New York has won seven consecutive games, its longest winning streak since 1962, and needs to beat either St. Louis or Green Bay — who are combined 6-21-1 — at Giants Stadium to clinch its first title in 23 years.

And the Giants now are the only unbeaten home team in the league.

The Colts were winless everywhere until, in their first game under coach Ron Meyer, Eugene Daniel returned a blocked punt 13 yards for a touchdown with 20 seconds remaining for a 28-23 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

While Schroeder was victimized for the six interceptions and four sacks, three by league leader Lawrence Taylor, New York quarterback Phil Simms was having a big day. Simms threw for 265 yards and three touchdowns, while tight end Mark Bavaro caught five passes for 111 yards.

Colts 28, Falcons 23.

One play prior to Tate Randle's block of Rick Donnelly's kick, Donnelly had been roughed by Randle while attempting to punt from the Indianapolis 43. But a personal foul infraction against Atlanta's Aaron Brown caused off-setting penalties. Randle then broke through with 30 seconds remaining, and Daniel picked up the ball and ran in for the score.

Bengals 31, Patriots 7.

James Brooks rushed for 163 yards and caught six passes for 101 yards, while backfield Nate

Stanley Wilson ran for 120 yards, including a 58-yard scoring run as Cincinnati set club records of 584 total yards and 300 rushing yards against the NFL's no. 4-ranked defense. The Bengals' defense denied the Patriots a chance to clinch a playoff berth.

Chiefs 37, Broncos 10.

Kansas City continued its rough treatment of Denver quarterback John Elway and robbed the Broncos of a chance to clinch the AFC West. Denver needs one more victory this season or a loss by the Los Angeles Raiders to secure the division crown. Todd Blackledge, in relief of injured Bill Kenney, threw two touchdowns.

passes as the Chiefs snapped a three-game losing skid. But it was the defensive unit's four pickoffs against Elway that kept Kansas City in control.

49ers 24, Jets 10.

Fullback Roger Craig ran for San Francisco's first two touchdowns, and his backup, Tom Rathman, dashed 29 yards for the third, as the 49ers eased past the Jets, who have lost three straight games.

Ken O'Brien, the top-ranked quarterback in the NFL, had an 0-for-9 passing start, was intercepted three times for the first time in his career, and sacked four times.

Browns 21, Bills 17.

Kevin Mack's two 1-yard touchdowns and Bernie Kosar's 11-yard pass to Brian Brennan

was enough for Cleveland. Mack scored both touchdowns in the first half before suffering a shoulder injury. Buffalo's Jim Kelly completed 20 of 39 passes for 315 yards, while Kosar completed 18 of 33 attempts for 240 yards.

Vikings 32, Packers 6.

A 14-point blitz 74 seconds, sparked by Green Bay punting errors, helped Minnesota, which at 8-6 is in the thick of the chase for a wild-card berth. Darrin Nelson's 12-yard touchdown run and Tommy Kramer's 7-yard scoring pass to Anthony Carter came after substitute punter Bill Renner's problems.

Bears 48, Buccaneers 14.

Doug Flutie entered the game in the second quarter, ran for one touchdown and passed for another. Flutie's first NFL completion was a 52-yard pass to Willie Gault. On the next play, he passed for 27 yards and a touchdown to Walter Payton with 20 seconds left in the half.

Steelers 27, Lions 17.

Louis Lippis, slowed by injuries this season, caught two scoring passes and his 48-yard first-half touchdown pass before teaming with Mark Malone on a 39-yard scoring pass play in the third quarter.

Dolphins 31, Saints 27.

Dan Marino had touchdown passes of 13 yards to Dan Johnson, four yards to Bruce Hardy and 23 yards to Tony Nathan. The dormant Dolphins, running game also worked in the first half, as Lorenzo Hampton had 73 yards, including a 4-yard first-quarter touchdown. Miami piled up 100 rushing yards in the half.

Chargers 7, Oilers 0.

Dan Fouts became the third quarterback in NFL history to pass for 40,000 yards in his career and San Diego recorded its first shutout in six games. Fouts went past the 40,000-yard mark with a 22-yard completion to Trumaine Johnson late in the third period. He completed 21 of 30 passes for 250 yards and a touchdown to run his yardage total to 40,050. Fran Tarkenton is the all-time passing yardage leader with 47,003.

Cardinals 10, Eagles 10, OT.

St. Louis tied the game with 2:39 left in regulation on a 48-yard touchdown pass from Neil Lomax to wide receiver Roy Green. Then the kickers botched their opportunities to win it in overtime. The Cardinals had the first chance to win it 4:05 into overtime when Eric Schubert's 40-yard attempt was blocked by defensive end Reggie White. Philadelphia blew its opportunity with 1:32 to go when Paul McFadden kicked wide from 43 yards. Then Schubert missed from 37 yards.

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BATTLE FOR THE BOTTOM: Al Quozqi defeated Al Qadisia 1-0 in a match at Amman Stadium on Monday. The two teams are struggling to avoid being relegated to the First Division from the Premier Division. Bottom of the table Al Nasr is all but assured of being relegated. In the photo, Al Qadisia goalie Munir Tawalbeh jumps to catch the ball as his teammates surround him (Photo by Abu Shan).

Victoria stages comeback

MELBOURNE (R) — All-rounder Simon O'Donnell issued a reminder to the Australian selectors with a sparkling 77 Monday as stalwart resistance by the middle-order helped Victoria inch towards a draw against England.

At stumps on the third day Victoria was 296 for six, a lead of 134. Play on Tuesday's final day has been limited to two sessions as England flies to Adelaide in the evening to begin preparations for the third test.

Victoria's batsmen put behind them their miserable performance in the first innings, when they amassed just 101, although the whiff of collapse was in the air when three wickets fell for just six

runs in the first session. England seam bowler Gladstone Small did most of the early damage, taking four for 34 before lunch as Victoria slumped to 112 for four after resuming Monday morning at 56 for no wicket.

But O'Donnell, an integral part of the Australian test side on its 1985 tour of England, stopped the rot as he wiped out England's 162-run first innings lead with Paul Hibbert in a fifth-wicket stand of 127.

Hibbert played a minor role as O'Donnell took the fight to the England bowlers, hitting eight fours and a six before being stumped by Jack Richards off Phil Edmunds.

Navratilova beats Evert Lloyd in Challenge final

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova defeated Chris Evert Lloyd 6-4, 6-2 in a rain-delayed match to earn the \$110,000 winner's share in the \$250,000 Lynda Carter-Mayhew Tennis Challenge Women's Event.

Navratilova, who is Czech-born but is now an American, broke Lloyd in the third game of the first set and the first and fourth games of the second set to take the match without much difficulty. Evert Lloyd is of the United States.

Rain forced the players from the court with the score 1-1 in the first set and delayed an hour, 15 minutes before play was resumed.

The exhibition tournament began Thursday with six players.

The tournament's semifinal matches had been rescheduled from Friday to Saturday morning. In the semifinals, Navratilova defeated Stephanie Rehe 6-3, 6-1 of the United States and Lloyd beat Carling Bassett of Canada 6-4, 6-3.

Lloyd, who earned \$90,000 as the runnerup, was playing in her third exhibition tournament since taking three months off to recuperate from a knee injury.

Liverpool defends F.A. Cup title without fans

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool will start the defence of its English F.A. Cup soccer title without any supporters said on Sunday. Plastic pitch following Monday's draw for third round pairings in the prestigious knockout competition.

Liverpool, the reigning English League and Cup "double" champion, was drawn to meet First Division rival Luton Town, which earlier this season barred fans of visiting teams by introducing a controversial "members only" system of entry to its Kenilworth Road Stadium.

Opponents of the Luton project claimed it would give an unfair advantage to the home team, especially in sudden death cup matches where fan support often plays a major part.

Luton was kicked out of the Littlewoods Cup, the nation's other knockout competition, for refusing to lift the ban on away fans. But officials of the Football Association, which runs the more important F.A. Cup, allowed Luton to stay in their competition.

Liverpool is usually accompanied by a big on-the-road following and would have enjoyed massive support from several thousand travelling fans at the start of its defence of the trophy.

But because of the Luton membership project, the cupholders will not be allowed to take any supporters to Luton, a tough team to beat at its own stadium and on its own plastic surface.

The problem was eased, however, when the match was selected for live television transmission throughout the country, meaning Liverpool backers will still be able to see the action as it occurs without going to Luton hoping to enter the ground illegally.

New Zealand kept far in front of the pack with another victory. Italy became its 28th victim, including 19 straight.

With only five days of racing left in the third round-robin series, it is now certain that New Zealand will make the semifinals and French Kiss and Stars and Stripes are in good position to advance. Either America II, White Crusader or USA will fill the fourth and final spot when the semifinals start on Dec. 28.

New Zealand gained another 12 points in beating Italy to bring its total to 138.

Soccer round-up

Barcelona stretches league lead

LONDON (R) — Barcelona enjoyed the perfect preparation for its UEFA Cup clash with Bayer Uerdingen when it stretched its lead in the Spanish First Division to three points with a 2-0 win at Osasuna at the weekend.

The glamorous favourite for the least alluring of the three European club soccer tournaments was fully extended in a hard-fought match which suggested it has recovered some consistency after an erratic start to the season.

Goals from winger Francisco Carrasco, following up a parried shot by England striker Gary Lineker, and Spanish World Cup midfielder Victor Munoz secured victory and ensured confidence will be high when the Catalan team defends a 2-0 lead in its UEFA Cup third round second leg tie.

The West Germans, who scrambled a 3-2 home win over Waldhof Mannheim on Saturday, are likely to be without up to six regular players, including suspended midfielder Dietmar Klingner, libero Matthias Gerget and Radi Bommer at the Nou Camp Stadium.

Barcelona owed its extended lead as much to Atletico Madrid's performance in holding city rival to a 1-1 draw as its own victory. Midfielder Jesus Landaburu put Atletico ahead in the 58th minute, but Madrid's goalkeeper, Hector Veira, saved a late equalizer.

At Ajax Amsterdam, the Dutch First Division following a 3-0 win at Groningen, who defends a one-goal lead in Portugal against Vitoria Guimaraes in the UEFA Cup. FSV was held 0-0 at Venlo.

Dynamo Kiev clinched the Soviet title by beating Dynamo Moscow 2-1. Vasily Rats and Igor Belanov scored its goals, but its title triumph was as much due to a special rule as its victory.

USA defeats Stars and Stripes

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — USA, skippered by Tom Blackaller, defeated Stars and Stripes and Dennis Conner Monday by 42 seconds in the America's Cup challenger trials to keep alive its semifinal hopes.

It was the second time that the San Francisco boat has defeated Conner, who has a heated rivalry with Blackaller.

The victory by USA kept it tied with Britain's White Crusader in fifth place, one point behind fourth-place America II. White Crusader defeated Canada II.

Stars and Stripes fell from second to third place behind French Kiss. Kiss skippered by Marc Pajot, defeated Challenge France, sailed by brother Yves.

Challenge France was unable to finish the race when it lost its mast. It was the first mast lost in either the challenger or defender series.

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River Plate's manager is sure of Toyota Cup tie

TOKYO (AP) — South American soccer champion River Plate of Argentina will "definitely win" the Toyota Cup in next Sunday's battle with European champion Steaua Bucharest of Romania. River Plate manager Hector Veira said Monday.

Speaking at a news conference after their first day of practice in Tokyo, Veira said his players were in good condition despite the 30-hour flight from Buenos Aires and the wintry conditions in Japan. The team arrived in Tokyo Sunday.

"It will be a difficult match because Steaua Bucharest has proved its excellence in the European Champions' Cup. But we will definitely win the Toyota Cup," Veira said.

In the recent final series of the Libertadores Cup to decide South America's best team, River Plate defeated America Cali of Colombia 2-1 in Cali and 1-0 in Buenos Aires. It was the first continental cup for the team, one of the most popular teams in Argentina.

Steaua Bucharest, which edged F.C. Barcelona in a dramatic penalty shootout in the final game of the European Champions' Cup at Seville, Spain, in May, is to arrive in Tokyo Tuesday for the showdown between the top teams from the two continents.

The Romanian goalie, Helmuth Ducadam, saved all penalty shot attempts while his teammates scored two. It also was the first continental title for Steaua, and it will be the first team from East Europe to appear in the game.

Six of the past seven winners of the annual Toyota South American-European Cup, which virtually decides the world's best soccer club, have come from South America. Last year, French ace Michel Platini led Italy's Juventus to Europe's first victory, over Argentine Juniors, in a postgame penalty shooting contest.

This year's match, scheduled to start at noon Sunday (0300 GMT) at Tokyo's 70,000-seat Yoyogi National Stadium, is to be aired on television to about 50 countries. The most valuable player will win a Toyota car.

"I want you to

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4200/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3788/93	Canadian dollars
	2.0090/0100	West German marks
	2.2710/20	Dutch guilders
	1.6810/20	Swiss francs
	41.75/80	Belgian francs
	6.5975/6025	French francs
	1393/1394	Japanese yen
	162.45/55	Swedish crowns
	6.9415/65	Norwegian crowns
	7.5570/5620	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	7.5920/70	U.S. dollars
	390.40/390.90	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were firm in late trading following the start of business in the new 50p part-paid 135p British Gas shares, which opened at a sharp 17p premium, dealers said.

Turnover in the new shares was a massive 537 million at 1530 GMT while at the same time the shares had eased to 64p. This four billion share offer is the largest single flotation in the U.K. and has raised over £5½ billion. Dealers noted that the opening price was substantially above the unofficial grey market price of just over 60p Monday morning.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 10.9 points at 1,624.4 compared with a little changed opening of 1,613.7.

Among FTSE 100 share constituent stocks, ICI gained 7p to 1,110, Satchi and Satchi 22p to 712 after recent weakness, Bass 11p to 728 and Glaxo 22p to 924, while Unilever jumped 40p to 2,198 in further consideration of its acquisition of U.S. company Chesebrough-Ponds.

Pillington was a net 2p higher at 617 and showed little reaction to interim profits of £86.9 million compared with £49.4 million in the year ago period. Pillington is currently fighting off a £1.16 billion bid from BTR, which was quoted a penny higher at 268.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today you find a considerable amount of confusion when putting into effect a new course of action. Your mind is working overtime now and you will forge ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A worldly affair can be confusing, but you can get into new interests and make big headway with them.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Remain steadfast to your own way of life and don't run off to something you know little about.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Postpone a responsibility so that you can do whatever pleases your mate. Use your mature judgment.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you follow through on some outside affair, it could mean trouble. Keep busy at your regular job.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't try to fool your mate, but face the situation honestly and wisely and all will be well between you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Public matters could confuse you, so handle them later. Spend time with your mate in the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make sure you are precise in handling your work and avoid making mistakes. Gad about town tonight and be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to calm down a good friend who is having problems. Be supportive of a fellow worker.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some situation at home will right itself, so don't worry about it. Take your mate out for a fine dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how best to handle some problematical affair concerning papers, etc., that have you baffled.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure you get more information before you try to handle a business matter that is difficult to do right now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are rather confused about what to do today, but later you get many fine ideas for advancement.

Peanuts trade bewails fall in prices

ROTTERDAM (R) — Anyone crunched salted peanuts at cocktail hour this week might want to spare a thought for the peanut traders of Rotterdam.

The extensive, Rotterdam-based peanuts trade has been caught wrong-footed by a sudden glut after earlier hints of a shortage.

Warehouses are bulging with stocks, while the price, which had shot up to \$1,750 a tonne, has tumbled in the last few weeks to a more usual \$1,000 level.

"This market is coming down like a pair of trousers with no buttons," said one trader, of an episode that offers a lesson on the hazards of doing business in commodities.

Traders say prices started upwards this summer after reports that the important U.S. crop was hit by bad weather.

But now it emerged that China and Argentina had good crops and that the U.S. crop might not be as bad as was thought.

Rotterdam stocks, traders estimate, are now at a record 90,000 to 120,000 tonnes range when more normal levels would be 40,000 to 60,000.

To put the numbers in context, annual peanut consumption in Britain, the largest importer, is 110,000 tonnes. The Netherlands, second in the world peanuts league, eats 80,000.

A general feeling is that many roasters will buy American peanuts for their eating quality, and these top grades should recover in price. But prices for less-processed grades that are used to make peanut butter may remain on the low side.

The Naibitt Group interviewed about 75 chief financial officers, financial service and government professionals to arrive at its forecast.

Campbell Corfe, a partner in KMG's U.S. unit, KMG Main Hurdman, said that while many of the changes outlined in the study already were taking place, the pace was accelerating toward an international "explosion" of change over the next several years.

Mr. Corfe said the technology competition, as well as shifts in international economic conditions, are trends that will dominate the financial landscape of the future," the study said.

The study, conducted by the Naibitt Group consulting firm, also forecast increasing investment and merger activity in Europe and the Third World as financial communications improved; a global 24-hour stock market within several years and an overhaul of the world monetary system as nations lose more control over currency rates.

"Innovation, deregulation and competition, as well as shifts in international economic conditions, are trends that will dominate the financial landscape of the future," the study said.

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IEA predicts rise in oil use by industrialised countries

PARIS (R) — Oil consumption in Western industrialised countries is likely to grow in the first half of next year but by less than it originally forecast, the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s latest monthly oil market report said.

The agency estimates that 35.2 million barrels per day (b/d) will be needed in the first half of next year compared with 34.68 million b/d in the first half of 1986, an increase of approximately 1.6 per cent.

Its previous consumption estimate for the first half of 1987 predicted a two per cent growth. The drop in its estimate of projected oil use was spread throughout the whole of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) group of countries.

The IEA estimated oil use for the whole of 1986 in the 24 member countries of the OECD at 34.8 million b/d compared to 34 million b/d in 1985.

Total stocks in OECD member countries would be about 441.2 million tonnes on Jan. 1, 1987 or enough for 96 days, 15.1 million tonnes higher than a year ago when stocks for only 93 days were held.

The most dramatic effect of the capital explosion was in banking. Mr. Corfe said, as illustrated by the recent "Big Bang" deregulation of London financial markets and the heavy international activity of the Japanese commercial and investment banking giants.

September at a rate of 45,000 barrels per day (b/d). Output was being moved by pipeline to a refinery at Hama and would eventually be increased to 60,000 b/d he said.

Mr. Drouhi said other hydrocarbon-bearing structures in the same area at Al Ward, Al Ashara and Khartoum showed its importance for future oil and gas production.

Mr. Drouhi said Syria's gas production would reach a total of 600 million cubic metres a year by 1988 with the addition of output from Al Rumaylan oilfield. Al Hol in north east Syria and Al Tayem. Al Hol would begin production in the first quarter of next year.

He estimated Al Tayem gas output at around 700,000 cubic metres a day and said it would be used to generate electricity.

He also said the Tayem oilfield south of Deir Ez Zhor began commercial production in

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Production in 1986 by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was estimated at 19.1 million b/d, up from 17.2 million b/d in 1985.

November OPEC production was estimated at 16.5 million b/d, with lower Saudi Arabian and Iraqi production explaining the 800,000 b/d decline since October. The IEA said attacks in late November on Iranian export facilities may lead to a downward revision of the November figure.

October OPEC crude oil production estimates were revised upward by 750,000 b/d to 17.3 million b/d as production levels in most of the Gulf states exceeded earlier estimates.

North Sea production stayed at approximately 3.8 million b/d and was expected to remain at this level until the end of the year.

Oil stocks in the United States and Canada for Jan. 1, 1987 were estimated at 216.7 million tonnes, sufficient for 98 days requirements against 206.2 million tonnes or 94 days consumption on Jan. 1, 1987.

In Europe stocks for Jan. 1, 1987 were put at 153 million tonnes or 93 days requirements compared to 148.4 million tonnes or 90 days worth on the same date this year.

Italy expects a series of strikes

ROME (R) — Italians are bracing themselves for a series of public sector strikes this week disrupting air and train services, schools, hospitals and banks.

In what is being hailed as a "black December" of industrial unrest over pay and conditions, action by flight attendants is expected to ground most national and international flights from Rome and Naples Tuesday. The two airports account for more than 70 per cent of Italy's commercial traffic.

A 34-hour strike by some railway unions has forced the cancellation of 36 trains on Wednesday and Thursday, including several international services to France and Switzerland.

A long-running dispute between doctors and the government over pay and health service funds means that from Tuesday sick Italians will have to pay 30,000 lire (\$21) for every home visit by a family doctor.

Some 600,000 hospital workers and doctors are expected to strike for two days over stalled negotiations for new work contracts.

Teachers plan selective action all week in schools throughout the country, while bank workers, who stayed away from work for two days last week, are expected to take action again if there is no progress in their wage negotiations.

A two-day strike by public veterinary inspectors at border posts is expected to bring the meat and fish sectors to a halt causing an estimated 20 billion lire (\$14 million) in lost trade.

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U.S. pilots ferry Honduran troops to repel Nicaraguan incursion

Managua claims U.S. jets attacked villages

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — U.S. helicopter pilots ferried Honduran reinforcements to the border Sunday to battle some 700 Nicaraguan soldiers who crossed the frontier and engaged Honduran troops, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

The Honduran soldiers were being flown in UH-1H Bell Huey and CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the U.S.-operated air base at Palmerola, 56 kilometres north west of Tegucigalpa, to the border town of Las Trojes, about 137 kilometres south east of the capital, sources said.

In Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto denied any Nicaraguan troops were in Honduras and claimed instead that U.S. warplanes bombed two Nicaraguan villages Sunday afternoon, wounding eight people.

Late Sunday the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said seven Sandinista soldiers were killed and nine were wounded in the first attack, and that two girls, ages 4 and 11, were killed in the second attack.

A Nicaraguan military source, however, told the Associated Press the raids were conducted by the Honduran Air Force flying its own U.S.-built A-37 and French-made Super Mystere B-2 jets. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

A ranking Honduran military official, who also demanded anonymity, told the AP in Tegucigalpa that "our airplanes have not entered Nicaragua, nor attacked populations in that country."

The Honduran Air Force did not fly over Nicaragua, Honduran military spokesman Capt. Carlos Quezada Aguilar reported the Nicaraguan force penetrated five kilometres inside Honduras on Saturday and burned three abandoned villages. The Nicaraguans might have been pursuing U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels known as contras who operate from bases in southern Honduras against the leftist

Sandinista government.

The U.S. embassy spokesman, who demanded anonymity, refused "for security reasons" to say how many American helicopters or pilots were involved but said, "there are not many and the operation is now under way."

"There is no possibility of U.S. soldiers participating in combat," the spokesman said when reached by telephone.

In Washington, State Department officials on Sunday confirmed U.S. participation in the operation. The State Department also said about 1,000 Nicaraguan troops had advanced into Honduras.

"Today Nicaragua has been the object of a series of air bombardments in the northern zone of the country," Mr. D'Escoto said at a press conference. "Everything indicates that the planes that have penetrated our territory and bombed different populations are North American planes."

He said Sandinista forces did not return fire.

Mr. D'Escoto said the first bombardment occurred Sunday afternoon near the headquarters of the first brigade, located 190 kilometres north east of Managua and about 24 kilometres south west of the Honduran border.

Later in the day, war planes bombed the village of Wivili three times, Mr. D'Escoto said. Wivili is located 160 kilometres north east of Managua and 27 kilometres south of the Honduran border.

Three Sandinista militiamen, two civilians and three Sandinista soldiers were wounded in the attacks, Mr. D'Escoto said.

Mr. D'Escoto said that "if the Honduran army is having a

confrontation with some Nicaraguans (inside Honduras), it would have to be with the contras because they are the only (Nicaraguans) who are in Honduran territory."

Michael O'Brien, chief spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Tegucigalpa, said by telephone that D'Escoto's charge was "completely false."

"This is obviously another example of Sandinista disinformation. It's a manoeuvre by the Nicaraguan regime to distract public attention from the Sandinista aggression against Honduras."

Mr. O'Brien said that "no U.S. military plane is operating on the border with Nicaragua."

Asked for proof that U.S. warplanes had bombed inside Nicaragua, Mr. D'Escoto said, "I said that everything indicates that the United States for many years has been carrying out a war against Nicaragua. It is not Honduras. It is a war that although it is not officially declared, it is a war that the United States is carrying out."

He said journalists would be invited Monday morning to the scene of the bombings.

Earlier Sunday, President Jose Azcona Hoyo had asked U.S. aircraft fly reinforcements into the border area.

Quezada Aguilar, in a statement read nationwide over radio and television, described the fighting as "of considerable proportions."

The information on the fighting could not be independently verified and the government has barred reporters from entering the area.

Saturday's incursion into Honduras was the fifth reported in seven months.

On Sunday, Quezada Aguilar said Gen. Humberto Regalado Hernandez, the armed forces chief, "has ordered the air force to attack groups of Sandinista troops ... and these actions will not cease

until the invading forces abandon Honduran territory for good."

A Honduran military source, who demanded anonymity, told the Associated Press by telephone earlier Sunday that at least 18 Honduran soldiers were reported wounded. The Nicaraguan force "suffered many casualties up to now," the source said. "There are many dead and wounded."

The report could not be independently verified.

The Honduran intelligence source said about 1,000 Honduran soldiers from the 6th and 9th infantry battalions, backed by helicopter gunships, had engaged the Nicaraguan force. About 1,000 soldiers from the 1st and 2nd infantry battalions and the 3rd artillery battalion were en route from Central Honduras, he said.

In Washington State Department spokesman said U.S. helicopters, with President Ronald Reagan's approval, on Sunday began airlifting Honduran troops to within 40 kilometres of a battle with about 1,000 Nicaraguan troops that have crossed into Honduras.

No Americans were involved in the fighting, said the spokesman, Gregory Laguna.

He said the U.S. forces were under orders to remain at least 25 miles away, in keeping with congressional restrictions on the use of U.S. forces along the border dividing Honduras, a U.S. ally, from Nicaragua, governed by the leftist Sandinistas.

A statement released late Sunday by the State Department said Mr. Reagan, on Saturday night, "agreed to provide the requested air support using U.S. military helicopters currently located at Honduras' Palmerola Air Base, near Comayagua."

The airlift began Sunday afternoon and was expected to conclude sometime Monday, the statement said.

"U.S. helicopters will not be armed and will not approach areas of hostile action," the statement said.

Filipino rebels call for removal of U.S. bases

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist negotiators said Monday that U.S. bases in the Philippines must be closed if lasting peace is to be achieved and warned that a dispute over military patrols could prevent a cease-fire from going into effect.

The nationwide 60-day cease-fire, signed on Nov. 27 by the government of President Corason Aquino and the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF), is to take effect Wednesday.

During the cease-fire, the first nationwide truce of the 17-year insurgency, the two sides are to begin talks on issues including land reform, political change and the status of American bases.

The armed forces reported Monday that two soldiers were killed and six wounded in separate ambushes in the Luzon Island provinces of Zambales and Abra. The army blamed Communist rebels for the Sunday attacks.

At a meeting Monday with reporters, three NDF representatives said they have not changed their position that the American military bases must be removed.

They also criticised statements by senior military commanders that the army will continue patrols in rebel areas after the cease-fire and that anyone caught with illegal weapons will be subject to arrest.

Defence Minister Rafael Ileta told reporters Monday that rebels who want to carry weapons can "do so in the mountains where we cannot see them."

NDF official Satur Ocampo said the rebels have told the government that the cease-fire may not be observed if the statement is not clarified or revoked.

Concerning the American bases, NDF spokesman Antonio Zume said the Communists "have always stood for genuine independence and sovereignty."

"And the U.S. bases in central Luzon and other parts of our country certainly are an affront to our independence and sovereignty," Mr. Zume said.

Bobby Malay-Ocampo, another NDF negotiator and Ocampo's wife, said the bases "will have to go" because "they are the cornerstone of American control and domination of the Philippines."

The United States maintains air and naval facilities, principally at Clark Air Base north of Manila and at Subic Bay, west of the capital.

They are the largest American bases outside of the United States and have nearly 40,000 troops, U.S. civilian employees and dependents.

The draft constitution, scheduled for a ratification vote on Feb. 2, bans foreign bases unless they are provided for under formal treaty. Mrs. Aquino has said she will honour the lease agreement on the bases, but is keeping her options open on what to do after the expiration date.

U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth said last week that the wording of the clause indicates that the future of the bases after 1991 would be up to the Philippine president.

But Satur Ocampo said the wording of the constitutional clause indicates that the Aquino government also favours removing the bases.

South Africa holding 256 children under 16

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South African police disclosed for the first time Monday that 256 children aged 11 to 15 were being held under the nationwide state of the emergency.

Police Chief Gen. Johan Coetzee said in a statement the youngest child in detention was 11 years old. Six children aged 12 were also being held, he said.

Gen. Coetzee's figures on child detentions were the first to be released by the government since a campaign was launched to free the black children before Christmas.

Unofficial estimates by anti-apartheid organisations had put the number of children being held without trial at more than 1,000.

The statement said 21 children aged 13 were being held under the state of emergency, which was imposed last June to stamp out violence by blacks opposed to the government's system of racial segregation.

Eighty-eight children aged 14 were in detention and 140 aged 15, the statement said.

A campaign organised by the Black Sash women's civil rights group has gathered mounting support in South Africa, with marches by white mothers on prison where children are held.

Gen. Coetzee's statement coincided with an assurance from Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok that no child would be held longer than necessary.

"I am deeply concerned about the fact that children are being

held in detention and I wish to assure you that no child will be held in detention for longer than is absolutely necessary," Mr. Vlok said in a separate statement.

"However, law-abiding people have the right to be protected ... The government has no option but to act against any person regardless of race, creed, sex or age who places the safety of others in jeopardy."

"I am saddened by the fact that children are being manipulated by callous individuals and radical organisations who wish to make the country ungovernable through brutal methods," Mr. Vlok said.

Young blacks have played a prominent role in the violence which has rocked South Africa's black townships for more than two years and resulted in more than 2,200 deaths.

A detailed report issued last month by the Deane's Parents Support Committee, a detention monitoring group, contended that many youths have been abused or tortured while in detention. It said as many as 40 youths are sometimes held in a single cell.

At a news conference last week calling for the children's release, the Rev. Peter Storey, former president of the Methodist Church of South Africa, called the detentions "an obscenity."

Sheena Duncan, former president of the Black Sash anti-apartheid group, said: "There is more official concern in this country about cruelty to animals than there is about cruelty to children."

Rebels, troops prepare for showdown in Jaffna

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (R) — Tamil separatist rebels and Sri Lankan troops are preparing for a major confrontation next month in this mainly rebel-controlled city.

"We are expecting a major push by the military at any time and we have warned the people to be on the alert," Krishnakumar, alias Kitti, northern leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said at the group's main training base here.

He was speaking to a 110-strong peace mission, the first organised group of civilians from the south to visit the troubled northern peninsula in three years.

Military officers in northern province said privately there were plans to clear the perimeter of Jaffna's main military base, an old Dutch-built fort where soldiers have been penned in by the guerrillas for months.

People with homes close to the fort have moved out in anticipation of a major battle. Sandbags are piled in front of shops in an effort to protect them against army shelling and crude air-raid shelters have been dug for emergency cover.

Officials said the Sinha regiment now garrisoning the fort is likely to be replaced by the Elite Gajaba regiment next month under the plan to regain control of the camp's approaches.

The black-uniformed Gajaba soldiers, used mainly in tough anti-guerrilla operations, are now in readiness in army camps throughout the north for the move to Jaffna Fort.

Despite a designated 1,000 metre security zone surrounding the fort, the LTTE, strongest of the guerrilla groups fighting for a separate Tamil state, has effectively stemmed any military push out of its base for the past six months.

The guerrillas have established fire positions and bunkers barely 200 metres from the 2.5 hectares (six acres) camp.

Most of the fort's approach roads have been mined by the rebels and wires to remote-control devices can be seen running under small culverts.

"We can check any army advance from the camp within minutes by blowing up these roads," Kandepan, the group's 22-year-old political organiser for the city said as he drove journalists accompanying the peace group through the city.

Jaffna residents fear many civilians will be killed if there is an army offensive. "We suffered in May and occasionally now when shelling from the fort hits people on crowded streets and civilian establishments," said Ratnam, a 33-year-old office clerk.

A middle-aged housewife, who declined to be named, said people ran for cover at the first sight of a helicopter. "We run for our lives at any hint of violence, but come back within minutes after it is over," she said.

The LTTE operates its city training base from a large colonial-style bungalow, about a kilometre from the fort. Its sprawling gardens are crowded with rebels in battle-dress who train in armed and unarmed combat.

The hesperateled Krishnakumar, who looks more like an intellectual than a guerrilla leader, said the LTTE was in absolute control of most parts of the peninsula.

As he drove about 300 metres from the military checkpoints at Elephant Pass, which controls the gateway linking the Jaffna peninsula with Sri Lanka's northern province, LTTE rebels met us and escorted us for the rest of the 65 kilometres to this city.

COLUMB

Diver survives shark attack

MONTEREY, California (AP) — A diver attacked by a shark was in fair condition Sunday after undergoing three hours of surgery a day earlier. Frank Gallo, 27, remained in intensive care but was out of danger, said Cindy Lloyd of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. "He's doing wonderfully well," the nursing supervisor said. "He's alert and conversant, and since he's a paramedic he's interested in his treatment on an academic level."

Four surgeons operated on Gallo for injuries to his jaw, neck, shoulder, rib cage and forearm. He was treated in the emergency room earlier for a punctured right lung. Gallo was attacked Saturday while scuba diving with friends 30 feet (9.15 metres) underwater and 135 metres off Carmel River state. He said he never saw the shark but managed to push it away and swim to the surface for help.

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Troops pull out of Delhi; riot flares in Bangalore

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were sent back to their barracks and curfews were partially lifted as New Delhi returned to normal after Friday's Hindu-Sikh violence. But four people were killed by police gunfire during Muslim riots in Bangalore.

Three army units manning positions close to police stations in volatile areas of east and west Delhi were withdrawn Sunday as a second day passed without incident.

Streets around three big Sikh temples in the capital remained under police guard but residents were allowed out for several hours during the day.

In the southern city of Bangalore, meanwhile, rioting erupted after the publication of a newspaper story offensive to Muslims.

Police commissioner P.G. Halaramkar told reporters four people died when his men opened fire on a mob trying to burn down the newspaper office. Nearly 50 were injured, many of them when disturbances broke out later in various districts.

Bangalore's entire police force was mobilised, state reserves were called in and a ban was imposed on gatherings or carrying arms.

The mob of about 5,000 Muslims tried to set fire to the office of the Deccan Herald newspaper after it printed a short story in its Sunday magazine said to be abusive to Islam.

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Chinese paper warns caution in political reforms

PEKING (R) — China's top official Communist Party newspaper, commenting Monday for the first time on the country's plans for political reform, urged caution and said it could take five years to introduce.

The highly-sensitive issue of changing China's centralised political system is believed to involve the separation of party and state functions and more open debate on political subjects.

But a commentary on the front page of the People's Daily warned that changes to the country's political structure were "even more complicated than economic reform" and needed "full investigations and study."

It said a basic reform plan would be ready within a year but gave no indication of the extent of changes being considered.

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Bulgarian quake kills 1, injures 30

BELGRADE (R) — At least one child was killed, 30 people were injured and buildings damaged when an earthquake shook Bulgaria, according to reports from the region.

The Bulgarian News Agency BTA said the quake, which measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale, injured 30 and caused "partial destruction and damage of residential, administrative, and other buildings" in the county of Timovo and neighbouring areas Sunday.

Its epicentre was at Strazica, a town of 21,000 people, 240 kilometres north east of the capital Sofia.

Western diplomats contacted in Sofia said the quake shook the capital quite strongly and lasted 20 seconds. The tremor was felt in neighboring Romania and Yugoslavia.

BTA reported no deaths but a Bulgarian journalist in Sofia said at least one person, a three-year-old child, was killed.

A Timovo telephone operator told Reuters "many people" were injured and the damage was extensive in Strazica.

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Former M15 agent says Thatcher misled parliament on security

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Peter Wright, the former intelligence agent and author of the book "Spycatcher" that the British government wants suppressed, claimed Monday that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had misled parliament on security matters after being deliberately misinformed by the MI-5 counter-espionage agency.

Wright, 71, who worked in London for MI-5 for 20 years before retiring to Tasmania in 1976, was giving evidence for the first time since Britain took court action in Australia to prevent publication of his book by Heinemann Publishers Aust Pty Ltd.

He said Mrs. Thatcher was wrongly informed when she gave statements on the Soviet spy Anthony Blunt in 1979 and again in 1981 on Sir Roger Hollis, former head of MI-5, whom Wright accuses in his book of being a Soviet mole.

Wright in his book also identifies other people as being double agents.

"In 1979 after Blunt was revealed as a spy, Mrs. Thatcher made a statement that was gravely misleading," Wright said. "She should not have made that statement. She should either have said nothing or revealed all."

"I believe on that occasion she

was misled by MI-5. So I began to write a dossier for it was my intention then to bring it to Thatcher's attention," Wright said.

Wright told the court that his greatest service to Britain would be to expose how its leaders had shut their eyes to Soviet penetration. He admitted that if the book is published it would seriously embarrass the government and probably MI-5.

"The British government has never accepted that it was being invaded en masse by Soviet agents," Wright told the supreme court of New South Wales, where the hearing before Judge Philip Powell is in its fourth week.

"I've too often seen people in positions of power turning a blind eye to this penetration. Too many people believe that the only penetration is limited to a few colourful individuals, often homosexuals," Wright said.

Accusing Hollis, now dead, of once being a Soviet spy, Wright said the ramifications were enormous. He said it not only affected British security but extended to Australia where Hollis helped set up the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) in 1948.

Wright said there was nothing in his book that would damage Britain's national security and that it was of historical interest only.

"I don't consider there is anything in this book that could in any way be helpful to foreign intelligence services or to terrorists," he added. "The information in my book is almost without exception about events that are almost 20 years old."

Wright said that several former MI-5 officers had published books on leaving the service, including Sir Dick White whom Wright described as "perhaps the greatest MI-5 officer in this century."